



Dear Neighbor,

I know I wrote you already this week, but there have been a few recent developments related to COVID-19 and our city's and nation's response that you should know about.

First, work is underway in Congress right now on additional coronavirus legislation that will help address the severe public health and economic challenges brought on by the pandemic.

It is expected the House of Representatives could vote as early as next week on this new measure. After that, we will need the Senate to act. There will, once again, almost certainly be negotiations between the House, the Senate and the White House. The final product will undoubtedly be a result of much compromise.

Still, this in no way mitigates the need to act – and to do so quickly. As this process goes forward, some of my top

priorities include: bolstering funding for unemployment insurance; more resources for nutritional assistance for families and individuals; and helping states and localities that are most affected be able to pay firefighters, nurses, teachers and other vital state and local employees. As the Chairwoman of the House Small Business Committee, I'm also pressing for additional improvements to the small business assistance programs.

Beyond this legislative activity, below are some additional updates on what I'm working on and on local resources available in our community.

As always, you can check my [coronavirus web page](#) here for frequently updated information.

I also recently launched a coronavirus web page with targeted resources for small businesses. That page is [online here](#). It includes information on local Small Business Development Centers, New York small business lenders and other useful information.

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### **Mask Distributions This Weekend, Next Week**

The City is distributing free face coverings at various locations throughout all five boroughs in coming days.

You can [find a location and distribution times here](#).

In our district, face coverings are being distributed at:

Sunset Park 's Play Center Entrance in Brooklyn. 7th Avenue &, 43rd St. (Saturday, May 9, 2-4 PM).

Alfred E. Smith's Recreation Center in Manhattan. 86 Catherine Street. (Sunday, May 10, 10 AM-12PM).

Coffey Park in Red Hook, Brooklyn. Richard and Verona Streets. (Monday, May 11, 10 AM-2PM).

Seward Park in Manhattan. Canal and Essex Streets. (Monday, May 11, 10 AM-12PM).

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### **COVID-19 Testing Update**

As testing continues ramping up, it is important New Yorkers know where they can go to receive a COVID-19 test.

### **Williamsburg and Lower East Side:**

**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](#).

Two other walk-in testing sites in my district available to everyone are at –

- **Williamsburg, Brooklyn** at Jonathan Williams Houses 333 Roebling Street
- **Manhattan's Lower East Side** at Gouverneur 227 Madison Street

## **Sunset Park:**

The Governor has a new testing site, operated by the **Family Health Centers at NYU Langone, Brooklyn**. It is located at the former Augustana Center at 5434 Second Avenue in Sunset Park. Patients should call the State DOH 24-Hour Coronavirus hotline: 888-364-3065 or take an online assessment at [covid19screening.health.ny.gov](https://covid19screening.health.ny.gov) to schedule an appointment.

In addition, **SOMOS Community Care** recently opened the first trilingual antibody testing site in NYC in Sunset Park. The facility is located at 757 60th Street, Brooklyn, and 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.

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

## **Throughout New York:**

**CityMD Urgent Care** has private testing locations throughout the city. They provide both nasal swab tests for people who think they may currently have COVID-19

and antibody tests for individuals who suspect they previously had the virus.

You may [find locations online here](#).

Locations in our neighborhoods include:

- Williamsburg's Broadway Triangle;
- Bushwick;
- Brooklyn Heights;
- Cobble Hill;
- Park Slope;
- Sunset Park;
- Ozone Park;
- Lower East Side.

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### **Unemployment Insurance Update**

New national unemployment numbers were released today. They confirmed the stark truth we've all known for some time – our nation is facing the greatest economic calamity since the Great Depression. I know so many of our neighbors are hurting and I'll keep doing everything possible to help them get through this.

I continue pressing the New York State Department of Labor to improve the unemployment claims processing system. I know many New Yorkers are struggling to access assistance and I share their frustration.

As a reminder, if you are having trouble with insurance claims, you may [contact my office for help with this link](#). Submissions are checked daily. While we are receiving

many casework requests, we will be in touch as soon as possible.

Relatedly, I've introduced legislation to make tax free the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefit, which provides an extra \$600 a week for any worker who is eligible for state or federal unemployment compensation (UC) benefits.

Laid-off or furloughed workers who are struggling right now should not face an additional tax burden if the economy picks up and they go back to work. Likewise, counting this benefit as taxable income could mean some working families no longer qualify for other vital help like the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program. Excluding FPUC from taxable income would allow dislocated workers to access other important federal aid.

You can [read my release on the bill here](#) and local media coverage [here](#) and [here](#).

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### **Voter Access Update**

The Governor has issued an Executive Order allowing voters to request and vote via an absentee ballot for any election held on or before June 23, 2020 due to the potential to contract the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

To request an absentee ballot, visit the NYC Board of Elections [website here](#).

Regardless of political party or who your support, every New Yorker should know that you can safely exercise your right to vote even during this pandemic.

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Please remember that you can always contact my office for more help. The best way to do so is online [using this form](#).

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 other updates.

This virus has affected our community in so many ways. The only way we'll pull through this is by relying on one another. Please don't hesitate to reach out for help, with suggestions or concerns. It is my profound honor to serve you and that's truer now than ever before.

I'll be in touch again soon.

Until then, be safe, be strong,



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