



September 2, 2020

Dear Neighbor:

I'm excited to announce that after months of working remotely, my district office will reopen on Tuesday, September 8th! As we are still closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation, my office will begin with a phased (and cautiously optimistic!) reopening:

Office Hours

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays

10:00AM to 5:00PM

Remote Hours

Thursdays and Fridays

For the time being, we will not be taking walk-ins and kindly ask that you call or email us in advance to schedule an appointment for constituent services/resources.

To ensure everyone's safety, we have adopted to following protocols:

- No-contact temperature checks will be required prior to entry.
- Hand sanitizer will be available upon entry/exit.
- Face masks must be worn for the duration of your appointment. If you do not have a face mask, we will provide you with one.
- Sneeze guards have been installed to allow for appropriate physical distancing.

And on a programming note -- this will be the final weekly COVID-19 update as I will resume our regular bi-weekly newsletters starting Wednesday, September 16th. Thank you for the ongoing feedback and support, I hope that these weekly emails have allowed you and your loved ones to stay informed on the latest pandemic news. Please keep in mind that I also regularly post on social media so please like on [Facebook](#) or follow on [Twitter](#).

Whether it's to schedule an appointment in the near future or to reach out with a question or concern, you can always reach us by calling 718-820-0241 or emailing RozicN@nyassembly.gov.

NB: This year's [9/11 Memorial](#) hosted by the Bayside Hills Civic Association will be happening with social distance precautions to unveil a second generation sapling that was grown from a tree that survived at Ground Zero. It is so incredibly important that we pay tribute and remember those we lost, I hope that you will join us.

Keeping You Informed on City and State Updates

Yesterday, the City announced changes to school reopening plans following an

agreement reached with the UFT, CSA and DC37. Under the agreement, in-person instruction will begin September 21st. Teachers and administrators will still report to their schools on September 8th and use the additional days for training, professional development, and readiness to collaborate and prepare for blended and remote learning. Remote learning for all will begin on September 16th to allow for a three-day transitional period until doors open on September 21st for in-person and blended learning. Once in-person learning has begun the DOE will establish a mandatory, robust system of repeated random COVID testing of adults and students, free of charge to participants. Students or staff found to have the virus, will be quarantined for 14 days. If multiple cases are found, the entire school will move to remote instruction until contact tracing is completed.

Whether fearing a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic or scrambling to figure out childcare, I know these past few months have been challenging for families, teachers, and administrators. This new school year will require us to continue adjusting to a “new normal,” but my commitment to ensuring everyone’s safety as we navigate this public health crisis is unchanged. At any point, you can reach out to me so we can work together in finding the balance needed to maintain quality education standards while prioritizing public health and wellness.

Alternate Side Parking. **ASP is in effect and there are new regulations to reduce the number of times you have to move your car. Here’s what you need to know:**

→ **No matter what, your block will still be cleaned twice a week. One day per side. The only change the Mayor made is for blocks where there were multiple ASP days PER SIDE.**

→ **If one side of your block gets cleaned on Tuesday and the other side of the block gets cleaned on Thursday, nothing changes for you. Your street will still be cleaned both days and you will still need to move your car both days. Same as before.**

→ **HOWEVER, if one side of your block gets cleaned Tuesday and Thursday, and the other side gets cleaned Monday and Friday, your block will now only be cleaned on the last day listed on the sign -- in this case it would be Thursdays**

and Fridays. Your block will be cleaned twice a week now instead of 4.

→None of these changes impact the avenues or commercial strips.



Streets that have multiple Alternate Side Parking days will now be cleaned on the later day of the week, meaning residents only have to move their cars once a week.

Parking meters remain in effect.

Bowling Alleys, Fitness Centers, Museums. **A new round of reopenings from the shutdown are planned in the coming weeks. Governor Cuomo authorized New York City museums, aquariums and indoor cultural institutions, and bowling alleys around the state to reopen. You can check out ILoveNY's guide on museum reopening's [here](#). As of August 24th, some gyms and fitness centers can reopen at 33 percent capacity while enforcing rigorous safety protocols, including requiring masks be worn at all times. Gym owners and all clients *must* take health guidelines seriously, or gym reopening can be rolled back. Local health departments are required to strictly enforce the state guidelines to ensure gyms and fitness centers reopen safely and protect the public health. Read New York's full guidance on gym reopening [here](#). *Currently, the City has not scheduled inspections that need to happen in order to reopen gyms.***

Census. **Ending the Census early is going to be devastating for New York. We**

need more time to reach hard to count communities here in Queens and across New York. This is your friendly reminder to make sure our community is represented. Take ten minutes and visit my2020census.gov.

Consumer Protection. If you had plans to travel or events that had to be canceled because of the pandemic and have been unable to resolve a dispute with a company as result, New York's Division of Consumer Protection may be able to help. They can help navigate refunds, extensions and more. You can file a complaint [here](#).

COVID-19 Testing. Anyone in New York is eligible for free testing whether you're high risk, have symptoms, or believe you might have been exposed to the virus. You can locate a testing site near you at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page>. NYC is also offering free antibody testing through a partnership with BioReference Laboratories which you can learn more about [here](#).

Debt Collection Assistance. If you are facing financial hardship due to COVID-19, you can request debt collection agencies to stop contacting you about your existing debt. Visit the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs [website](#) for more info.

DMV. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has updated their procedures to accommodate reopening guidelines. Due to the pandemic, all drivers licenses, registrations and vehicles inspections are still extended until further notice.



NEW YORK STATE Department of Motor Vehicles COVID-19 adjustments

New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices are now reopened and some offer in-person transactions by reservation only. All transactions that do not require an office visit must be completed online, by mail or by drop box. Visit

<https://dmv.ny.gov/offices/dmv-office-locations> to see the offices open in your county.

- New Yorkers can access many services online, such as renewing licenses and vehicle registrations, changing an address, obtaining driving records or resolving New York City traffic tickets. For a full list of available online transactions, visit <https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/all-online-transactions>.
- Reservations are now available for road tests statewide. All customers arriving for a road test must adhere to safety requirements, which you can find at <https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/dmv-reopening-guidance#road>.
- Visit <https://dmv.ny.gov/offices/dmv-office-locations> to see the offices in your county that are offering in-person driver's license and permit tests and other services.
- Enhanced Driver's License and REAL ID applications have been put on hold due to federal requirements for in-person processing. The federal REAL ID enforcement deadline has been extended one year until October 1, 2021.
- The five-hour course necessary to get a driver's license can now be conducted through distance learning (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-dmv-licensed-driving-schools-can-now-conduct-distance-learning-pre>).

To help New Yorkers avoid potential hardship, the DMV has extended until further notice: any driver's licenses, permits, non-driver identification cards, and vehicle registrations that were due to expire on March 1 or after; vehicle inspections that were due to expire on March 31 or after; and 45-day temporary registrations issued by auto dealers.

The DMV is urging New Yorkers to be patient during this time as DMV employees are working hard to answer any questions residents may have. For questions about what services the DMV is currently offering, go to www.dmv.ny.gov or call 518-486-9786.

Updated 8-31-2020

Eviction Moratorium: The moratorium on evictions in New York has been extended to October 1st. A new law provides tenants experiencing COVID-19-related financial hardship with protection from eviction. The ["Tenant Safe Harbor Act"](#) prohibits courts from evicting residential tenants for non-payment of rent that accrues or becomes due during the COVID-19 period. It would apply to any unpaid rent accrued between March 7th and October 1st.

The
**residential
eviction
moratorium**
has been
**extended
to Oct. 1.**



Health Insurance. **The deadline for health insurance special enrollment has been extended to September 15, 2020.** New Yorkers without health insurance can apply for coverage through the [NY State of Health Health Plan Marketplace](#).

NY State of Health
is extending a
SPECIAL OPEN ENROLLMENT
through September 15.

Homeowners. The City has postponed the annual tax lien sale until September 2020. The lien sale is administered by the NYC Department of Finance, which sells overdue property taxes, water and sewer charges, and other property charges to a non-profit trust. DOF sends out four warning notices to property owners starting three months prior to the sale, alerting them that the property is at risk of being on the lien sale list. Postponement will allow property owners to assess their economic situation in response to COVID-19 and determine if they need to apply for assistance or a payment plan.

Medicaid Renewal. The City has been granted another 12-month extension for the renewal of Medicaid cases. With this extension, all cases due to expire in the months of March through September are extended for 12 months. Any case that is closed for failure to renew or failure to provide documentation during COVID-19 will be reopened and coverage will be restored to ensure no lapse in coverage.

Mental Health Resources. Health care workers can text NYFRONTLINE to 741-741 to access 24/7 emotional support services. Any New Yorker can call the COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 1-844-863-9314 for mental health counseling and resources.

MTA. The MTA announced front-door boarding and fare collection on all local and SBS buses will resume next Monday, August 31. The MTA continues cleaning and disinfecting trains and buses on a daily basis. The subway will continue to close from 1:00AM to 5:00AM each day. Remember to wear a mask or face covering as they are required to ride. You can learn more about the MTA's plan [here](#).

NYC Care. As of September 1st, the City has launched a health care access program that guarantees low-cost and no-cost services to New Yorkers who do not qualify for or cannot afford health insurance. All NYC Care services are provided through NYC Health + Hospitals.

With NYC Care, you can get a membership card to access health services, choose your own doctor, and get affordable medications. Enroll today by calling 1-646-NYC-CARE (1-646-692-2273) or visiting <http://nyccare.nyc>.

Nursing Homes. Visits to nursing homes and long-term care facilities are allowed on a limited basis. Visits will be allowed at facilities that have been free of new COVID-19 cases for at least 28 days. Only two people are allowed to visit each resident and must undergo a temperature check, wear a mask and physical distance while visiting.

P-EBT Program. Children who lost food benefits due to COVID-19 school closures can access meals through the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program. P-EBT benefits do not require an application and will be automatically issued to kids who would have received free or reduced-price meals through the federal school lunch program. Benefits should have already been issued or will be soon, but if your child is eligible and your household has not received a P-EBT card and/or benefit by mid-August, call NYSOTDA at 1-833-452-0096.

Pandemic Benefits Guidance. Many people who have been impacted by COVID-19 qualify for benefits to help them buy groceries, get health care, or get financial support to make up for lost income. See what support you might be eligible for at access.nyc.gov/pandemic-benefits-guidance. Translations of the Pandemic Benefits Guidance are also available.

Queens Public Library. “To-Go” service is available at 15 branches! The following branches will provide to-go service for customer pickup of materials in a designated area of each building and will accept returns at their exterior return machines: Astoria, Bayside, Bellerose, Cambria Heights, East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, Kew Gardens Hills, Laurelton, Long Island City, Peninsula, Queensboro Hill, Rego Park, Ridgewood, South Ozone Park, and Whitestone. While many branches are providing modified services, I am pushing for the Fresh Meadows and Hillcrest branches to open as soon as possible.

Hours at these locations will be: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10am to 5pm with a closure for cleaning from 1 to 2pm; Tuesday from 1 to 5pm; and Thursday 12 to 7pm with a closure for cleaning from 3 to 4pm.

Materials will not accrue fines until October 1st, at the earliest. Materials can be requested online, through the QPL app, or by phone. Read more about QPL's reopening plans [here](#).

Renters. **The Rent Guidelines Board passed a Rent Freeze for rent regulated units — 0% increase on one year leases, for two year leases, 0% increase the first year, 1% increase the second year.**

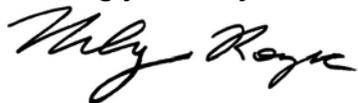
Small Business Assistance. **To help with reopening costs, Empire State Development recently created the New York Forward Loan Fund which offers support to small businesses with 20 or fewer employees and nonprofits. More information on the program can be found on the Empire State Development's [website](#).**

Travel Advisory List. **Certain states have been added or removed to a mandatory 14 day quarantine list. Learn more and see the full list of states and territories subject to the travel advisory [here](#).**

Unemployment Updates. **Regular UI benefits are now extended for up to 59 weeks, and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits are now extended for up to 46 weeks. Congress must act in the coming weeks to renew the \$600 payment which expired July 31st.**

As always, if there's something we didn't cover in this week's email and you need additional information, please contact my office. You can email us at RozicN@nyassembly.gov or call us at 718-820-0241 and leave a detailed message so my team can get back to you.

Wishing you and yours all the best,



Contact Me!

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Volunteer or Intern

