How COVID-19 Affects NY
Updated 3/23/20

Health

• New Yorkers who are experiencing fever, cough, shortness of breath or other cold or flu-like symptoms and do not feel better after three to four days should consult medical help. If you need help getting medical care, call 311. You can get care in NYC regardless of immigration status or ability to pay.

• Special enrollment period for uninsured New Yorkers is now available as COVID-19 cases climb. Individuals can enroll through NY State of Health or directly through insurers from now until April 15 for coverage effective on April 1. This special enrollment period hopes to discourage individuals from avoiding COVID-19 testing or medical care for fear of the cost.

• All New Yorkers should consider themselves potentially exposed to coronavirus. That means that everyone should stay home as much as possible, even if they do not have any symptoms of COVID-19. While at home, all New Yorkers should self-monitor. Self-monitoring means you check yourself for fever and remain alert for cough, shortness of breath or sore throat. It is really important that people who have these symptoms stay home and do not attend work, school, public events or group gatherings.

• USCIS announced that receiving treatment or testing for coronavirus will NOT be used in any future public charge analysis.

• Incidents of anti-Asian or anti-immigrant discrimination can be reported to 311 or the New York State Hate Crimes Task Force hotline at 1-888-392-3644.

Education

• All NYC schools are closed until at least April 20. Over 400 school locations will be serving free Grab and Go meals for students and their families. Locations will be open 7:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and will have three meals per person available. Parents can find the closest location serving meals at https://www.opt-osfns.org/schoolfoodny/meals/default.aspx

• Starting March 23, students will transition to remote learning. Families with technological needs should fill out this survey (https://coronavirus.schools.nyc/RemoteLearningDevices) which is now offered in 9 languages. Please contact 718-935-5100 or your school's principal if you have not received and/or filled out the technology survey.

• The school system has resources in English for students in grades Pre-K through 12 at https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/learn-at-home.

• More information about the transition to remote learning, Regional Enrichment Centers for children of essential workers and vulnerable populations, meals, and other core services in New York City will be made available for families at https://www.schoojs.nyc.gov/.

• Early child care centers may still remain open if they can operate safely. Contact your child care center directly to find out whether they will remain open.

• Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences for high schools, K-12, and 6-12 schools originally scheduled for March 19th and 20th are postponed.
Immigration

- Immigration Courts (until 4/13): NYC non-detained Immigration Courts (Broadway and Federal Plaza) are **CLOSED** until further notice. Buffalo non-detained hearings are cancelled.

- USCIS (until 4/1): all appointments are cancelled.

- ICE: NYC in-person check-ins are cancelled, telephonic check-ins are still happening. Waiting to hear back from the Buffalo/upstate office for more information.

- Federal Courts: Citizenship Oath Ceremonies are cancelled.

- ICE has cancelled all visitation for those in ICE detention.

- Immigration enforcement in the communities continues.

Social Services

- Senior centers will remain open to provide food to seniors, either as take-home meals or meals delivered to homes.

- New York State has waived the 7-day waiting period for workers to claim unemployment insurance.

- State benefit applications for food and utilities, as well as other forms of emergency assistance, are now available online, with no in-person appointment needed to qualify.

Census and Voting

- The Queens Borough President Special Election has been cancelled.

- Census forms can be completed online: [https://my2020census.gov/](https://my2020census.gov/) or by phone 844-330-2020. For language support completing the census: [https://2020census.gov/en/languages.html](https://2020census.gov/en/languages.html)

New Yorkers looking for the most updated information can text COVID or COVIDESP (for Spanish) to 692-692 or call the New York State Department of Health’s coronavirus hotline at 1-888-364-3065.