



NEW YORK STATE COVID-19 UPDATE

March 18, 2020

On March 18, Governor Cuomo announced that New York has 2,382 cases of COVID-19 and 20 related deaths. Health care and capacity remains the priority. The tri-state agreement between NY, NJ and CT that was reached on March 16 now includes participation from Pennsylvania.

New Executive Order:

- No more than 50% of employees can report for work outside of the home.
- Essential services are exempt and include food services, pharmacies, healthcare workers, shipping, supplies, etc.

Healthcare:

- DOH regulations regarding hospital bed spacing requirements will be temporarily waived to allow for an increase in bed capacity.
- The State is exploring innovative options to increase staffing.
- The Trump Administration is deploying the *USNS Comfort* to be docked in NYC's harbor. The ship is equipped with 1,000 rooms and functional operating rooms.
- Army Corps of Engineers will be in NYS later today to begin preparations and discussions regarding building temporary hospitals.

Legislature & Executive:

- The Senate and Assembly are in session today and expected to vote on matters related to paid sick leave and election modifications.
- The Senate and Assembly are implementing "common-sense" protocols to ensure the safety of their members. The Assembly has announced that the full house will be assigned to groups of 30 and will rotate onto the floor. Members who wish to debate an issue will contact their designated conference floor leader. Legislators will have access to the floor in accordance with their designated group.
- Governor Cuomo reaffirms that policy items are still on the table for negotiation and inclusion in any final Budget deal.

March 17, 2020

As of March 17, New York has 1,374 positive COVID-19 cases and 12 related deaths. According to a press conference held this morning by Governor Cuomo, additional changes will be made to the state in response to the growing COVID-19 pandemic including a Paid Sick Leave expansion, hospital capacity building plans and closings.

Legislature:

Governor Cuomo's Paid leave bill (Three-Way Agreement) has been released. The legislature is likely to vote on the matter Wednesday.

Healthcare is the Top Priority:

- Priorities: creating space in hospitals; encouraging retired health practitioners to re-enter the workforce and be on-call; construction to build temporary hospitals
- COVID-19 testing is being increased exponentially
- Current hospitalization rate 15-19%
- Expected peak in 45 days
- Expected need of hospital beds 55,000-110,000; ICU beds 18,600-37,200 (current capacity - 53,000 beds, 3000 ICU beds)
- Suffolk County, Rockland County, and Staten Island drive-thru testing sites will open soon; Nassau County's drive-thru opens today

Schools - All NY Schools Will be Closed by 3/18:

180-day school requirement is waived – Cuomo Administration may reevaluate after two weeks.

Localities and Closings:

Localities should check with DOH before implementing new rules and restrictions. More closings to be announced.

For more information: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-three-way-agreement-legislature-paid-sick-leave-bill-provide-immediate>

March 16, 2020

Beginning with the declaration of a State of Emergency, the Governor has enacted three Executive Orders since March 3.

On March 3, Governor Cuomo signed into law a \$40 million emergency management authorization that will allow the State to hire additional staff and procure equipment and any other resources necessary to respond to the evolving situation. To date, the Governor has released three executive orders. EO 202 declared a state of emergency, suspended related laws to allow for State contracts to be expanded and awarded, and the release of additional resources in response to the outbreak. EO 202.1 suspends laws and regulations to allow for expansion of services and temporary facilities for health and human services providers; grants flexibility childcare-related laws, suspends regulations to prevent delays in providing home delivered meals through EISEP; removes the 180-day school attendance requirement; suspends laws relating to waiting periods for unemployment insurance claimants whose claims arise from the COVID-19 outbreak; and suspends laws relating to emergency procurement. EO 202.2 temporarily modifies election procedures to reduce the spread of the virus. The Governor is making day-by-day changes, and continues to call upon the Trump Administration to dictate a uniform, country-wide plan.

As the result of today's tri-state agreement between NY, NJ, and CT:

- NY restaurants and bars are closed beginning at 8 p.m. 3/16, takeout permitted only
- Alcohol beverage rules will be suspended and the State Liquor Authority will provide guidance on allowing "to-go" products to be sold from bars, wineries, distilleries and restaurants
- Gyms, casinos, and movie theaters are closed beginning at 8 p.m. 3/16

Budget/State Politics:

- Cuomo is against the recent House-passed COVID-19 supplemental bill because he says it would not allow the MRT II to close the State's \$2.5B budget gap
- The Capitol is closed to visitors; two Assemblymembers tested positive for COVID-19; Members' staffers have reached out to share new communication policies
- The Houses are considering the Governor's bill to guarantee paid sick leave for quarantined workers up to 14 days.
 - Senate and Assembly committee meetings are cancelled for the week
 - Senate and Assembly session has been cancelled for today. They'll likely take up the matter remotely or on Wednesday
- The Budget is expected to be brought up for a vote by Friday, 3/20 - weeks ahead of the 4/1 deadline
- The final MRT II meeting is scheduled for 3/19, we expect that unlike previous meetings, it will be closed to visitors and only available through webcast

Schools:

- 86% of schools are closed, remaining 14% will be closed by Wednesday for at least two weeks
- Building capacity density is cut by 50%; 50% of State non-essential workers are mandated to work from home; non State-workforce is encouraged to work from home
- NYC schools are closed

Hospitals:

- Governor plans to build hospital capacity through construction or retrofitting physical buildings as he believes 40% of New Yorkers will contract the virus at a 15% hospitalization rate. He has formally requested that the Federal government commit resources and the Army Corps of Engineers to retrofit public buildings (i.e., college dorms) as temporary back drop ICU units. Today he reported they are talking to the Administration, no further update.
- New Rochelle has a Mobile Testing Center as a result of a partnership with Northwell and BioReference.
- Long Island and Staten Island are supposed to be getting mobile testing centers as well

General closings:

- 50% density reduction in the workplace - including non-essential state workers
- Events with 50+ individuals in attendance are to be cancelled/postponed

New DOH Rules/Regulations:

- Practitioners and pharmacists are encouraged to utilize 90-day supplies of long-term maintenance medications for those on Medicaid and in quarantine or are at high risk for developing serious illness from COVID-19
- Transfers between Medicaid participating pharmacies due to inaccessibility or travel limitations are permitted
- Early refills for members in need of medications due to quarantine or outbreak (controlled substances and non-controlled substances) will be allowed at the provider's discretion).
- Medicaid is reimbursing telephonic evaluation and management service in cases where face-to-face visits are not recommended and it is medically appropriate
- Governor Cuomo removed the waiting period to enroll in unemployment insurance related to COVID-19
- Governor Cuomo removed insurance copay requirements for testing related to COVID-19

Snapshot of COVID-19 cases in NY as of Sunday 3/15

**Does not reflect updated numbers as of 3/16; for depiction of distribution throughout counties only*

County	Positive Cases
Albany	8
Broome	1
Delaware	1
Dutchess	7
Erie	3
Greene	2
Herkimer	1
Monroe	2
Montgomery	1
Nassau	98
Orange	6
Putnam	2
Rockland	13
Saratoga	3
Schenectady	2
Suffolk	47
Tioga	1
Tompkins	1
Ulster	5
Westchester	196
New York State (Outside of NYC)	400
New York City:	329
Total Positive Cases (Statewide)	729

For comprehensive information from the NYSDOH, visit <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/providers.htm>