

# COVID-19 Weekly "What You Need to Know"

As of May 27, 2020, 4:09 PM

*The information in this compilation is current only as of the above date and time.*

**Purpose:** The purpose of this posting is to provide residents of New York State with a consolidated update of guidance released by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. This will show only current guidance for any given topic and will be updated to reflect new guidance.

- Long Island, Capital Region, Western New York, Central New York, North County, Finger Lakes, Southern Tier, Mid-Hudson Valley, and Mohawk Valley Regions have met all seven metrics required to begin phase one of the [state's regional phased reopening plan](#).
- NYS on PAUSE will continue through May 28 for regions that have not started reopening; a region can enter Phase One of reopening as soon as it meets its required metrics.
- New York State and local governments will provide death benefits for frontline workers who died from COVID-19 during this emergency.
- The state is continuing to direct resources and focus efforts on reducing the spread of COVID-19 in lower-income and predominately minority neighborhoods.
- Governor Cuomo renewed his call for Congress to pass the 'Americans First Law' to help prevent corporate bailouts following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Governor Cuomo called on the U.S. Senate to pass a coronavirus relief bill that helps all Americans and provides unrestricted fiscal support for states.
- The [winners](#) of the Wear a Mask New York Ad Contest are: "We Heart New York" created by Bunny Lake Films and "You Can Still Smile" by Natalia Bougadellis and Emory Parker.
- The state will fast-track construction of the new Empire Station at Penn and the new LaGuardia Airport while rail ridership and air traffic is down.
- Governor Cuomo met with President Trump in Washington D.C. and urged support of a real public infrastructure program to advance infrastructure projects in New York.
- Veterinarian practices will be allowed to open in all regions beginning Tuesday, May 26th.
- Governor Cuomo released a [guide](#) to the state's "NY Forward Reopening" Plan, along with the state's [regional monitoring dashboard](#).
- The \$100M [New York Forward Loan Fund](#) will provide loans to small businesses, focusing on minority and women owned small businesses, that did not receive federal COVID-19 assistance.
- The New York State sales tax filing deadline has been extended to June 22, 2020.
- Governor Cuomo issued executive orders [202.17](#) and [202.18](#) requiring all people in New York to wear masks or face [coverings in public](#), including when taking public or private transportation or riding in for-hire vehicles.
- New Yorkers without health insurance can apply through NY State of Health through June 15, 2020; must apply within 60 days of losing coverage.
- Health care workers can text NYFRONTLINE to 741-741 to access 24/7 emotional support services.
- New Yorkers can call the COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 1-844-863-9314 for mental health counseling.
- Testing is free for all eligible New Yorkers as ordered by a health care provider.
- Your [local health department](#) is your community contact for COVID-19 concerns.