

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

As of June 17, 2020, 4:00 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.

- New York City is on track to enter phase two of the [state's regional phased reopening plan](#); Long Island and Mid-Hudson Valley are on track to enter phase three; the Capital Region, Western New York, Central New York, Finger Lakes, Mohawk Valley, North Country, and Southern Tier are in phase three.
- New York State reached the lowest percentage of positive COVID-19 tests yesterday since the pandemic began.
- Governor Cuomo signs legislation prohibiting health care employers from penalizing employees for making complaints of employer violations.
- Governor Cuomo announced gatherings of up to 25 people will be allowed in phase three.
- Hospitals and group homes will be allowed to accept visitors at their discretion, while following state guidelines including time-limited visits and requiring visitors to wear PPE and be subject to symptom and temperature checks.
- Governor Cuomo announced the implementation of a new [early warning dashboard](#) to monitor and review how the virus is being contained on an ongoing basis.
- 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 July 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.