

March 31, 2020



SPECIAL BULLETIN



NYSAC Special Bulletin

Between the Legislature and COVID-19, news is breaking at a pace like we've never experienced — and it all directly ties to the work New York's counties are doing. To help keep you as updated as possible, NYSAC will be sending out daily "Special Bulletins."

Top Three Takeaways

We get it. You have too many things to do and not enough time to do them. Here are the top 3 things you need to know.

- 1) Today is the last day of state budget negotiations and we need you to call your state legislators and tell them to remove protect local taxpayers and essential services by removing Part R from the HMM Article VII bill.
- 2) Governor Cuomo created a hospital central coordinating team to share information, supplies, staffing and patients.
- 3) The federal CARES Act establishes a new \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program. The Program will provide relief to millions of small businesses so they can sustain their businesses and keep their workers employed.



Final Countdown on State Budget

Today is the last day of state budget negotiations, and we need you to reach out to your state representatives and legislative leaders to encourage them to **reject Part R, HMM Article VII bill from the SFY 21 Enacted Budget**. Please let them know that any state Medicaid proposal must keep the current local Medicaid caps in place to protect local services, including public health services related to our response to the coronavirus.

[Get contact information for key legislative leaders working to finalize the state budget here.](#)

With counties on the front lines of the community response to COVID-19, now is NOT the time to force counties and New York City to absorb more Medicaid costs.

Now is the time to invest in our local health departments as we work to contain the coronavirus epidemic. New York State's budget shortfall should not result in cost shifts that prevent LHDs from safeguarding our communities from infectious disease and other public health emergencies.

Sample e-mail to Legislative Leaders:

Dear Senator Cousins, Dear Speaker Heastie,

Please reject Part R of the Governor's Budget. Now is not the time to shift costs to counties. Now is the time for New York to accept federal Medicaid funding that can help the state, counties, and NYC battle the COVID-19 crisis. Change Medicaid after this crisis is over.



CC your own Assemblymembers and Senators, and then hit send.

Redesigned COVID-19 Page at our Website

We have restructured our website to include a new section for all of the COVID-19 materials we have been creating and providing. The new site is at nysac.org/covid-19. It is organized into several different pages or chapters that include a COVID-19 county Map of New York State, legal Resources, Communication Resources, NYSAC Reports, Counties Innovating, and material for residents. It's a clearer and cleaner way to present the material we are posting to support your work.



Take 5 for NY

Yesterday, we sent a note to all county members with information about a new social connection campaign called Take 5 for NY. Look, I don't want to spend a lot of time on that tonight, but I just want to say that this is a great way for you, as a local leader, to foster connections in your community at a time when many people are feeling very isolated and alone.

Six feet can feel like 60 miles. Social distancing does not have to be social isolation.

The message is simple. Your residents can take just five minutes out of their day every day to call on a loved one, friend, neighbor, acquaintance to say hi, check on them, see if they need anything, lift their spirits, and tell them they are not alone. It doesn't matter what they talk you talk about. They can talk about this crisis or the latest show they are watching. The point is connecting with people in our community who could use it the most.

Send a press release, post a tweet, send an email to the lists you have. Ask people to forward it to other people. Let us know if you launch the campaign locally, so that we can amplify it on our social media channels.

[Learn more here.](#)



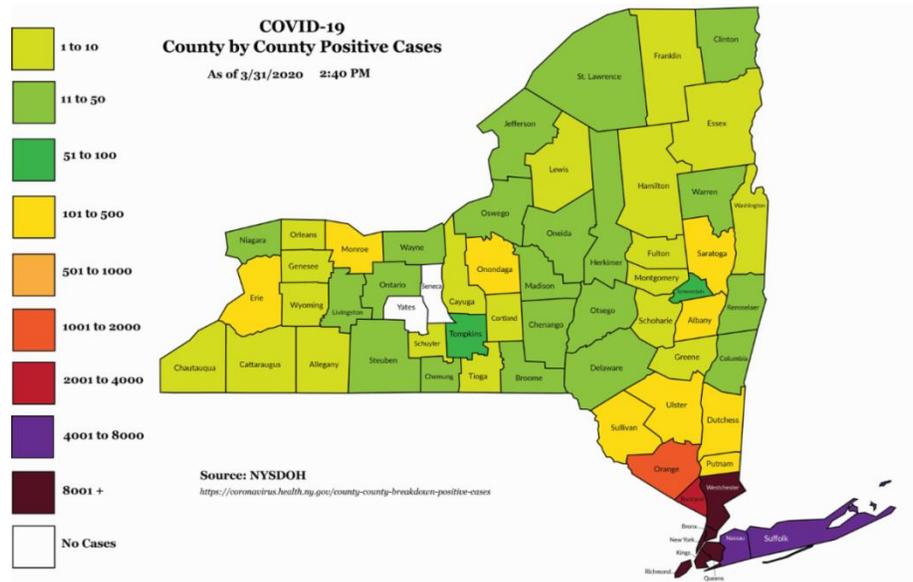
COVID-19 by the Numbers

As of 1:30pm today (3/31), NYS has 75,795 total positive test results, a 9,298 increase over yesterday. Of the 75,795 total positive results, 10,929 are hospitalized. Of the 10,929 that are hospitalized, 2,710 are in the ICU. 4,975 people have been discharged.

New York State has tested 205,186 people, an increase of 18,000 from last night.

NYSAC COVID-19 Tracker Map

Be sure to check in with our COVID-19 map, updated daily on our [website](#).



Governor Announces New Hospital Coordinating Team

Today at his daily press conference, Governor Cuomo announced a new hospital network Central Coordinating Team to help facilitate a more cohesive and strategic approach among the state's healthcare system in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. The team is being led by DOH and it is designed to help hospital systems work together.

The coordinating team will help implement the statewide public-private hospital plan, which the Governor announced yesterday, to share information, supplies, staff and patients among hospitals across the State. The team will be responsible for organizing upstate to downstate staffing; assisting Elmhurst Hospital and other stressed hospitals; setting patient thresholds for hospitals; organizing patient transfers to other hospitals and the USNS Comfort; coordinating State-City stockpiles and individual hospital stockpiles; and facilitating staffing recruitment.

Of the 17,000 ordered, the state only expects to receive 2,500 ventilators over the next two weeks. Currently, New York State cannot buy more ventilators at any price. This may change as new companies manufacture ventilators, but that's the way it is today.

Ag&Markets provides agriculture district guidance

The NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets has received several inquiries regarding agricultural districts in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic. The following memorandum is intended to provide guidance to county officials and agricultural district coordinators. For more information, please contact your county attorney or Ag & Market's Associate Attorney John Rusnica at John.Rusnica@agriculture.ny.gov

Federal Briefing Call with Dr. Fauci and other Administration Officials

On Wednesday, April 1, at 1:30 PM ET, please join Dr. Anthony Fauci (Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases), Larry Kudlow (Assistant to the President for Economic Policy), and Senior Administration Officials for a briefing call on COVID-19 (coronavirus). The purpose of this call is to provide State and local elected officials with up-to-date information on COVID-19 and pertinent Administration and Task Force actions.



Registration instructions are below – please read the RSVP instructions in their entirety before registering. We encourage you to share this invitation with your county and/or municipal colleagues as well as public health officials. If you have a particular question you would like addressed during the call, please flag those for our team.

Briefing Call Registration

Date: Wednesday, April 1

Time: 1:30 PM ET (please note time zone)

Call-In Registration: [CLICK HERE](#)

Federal Relief Act Creates Paycheck Protection Program

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act establishes a new \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program. The Program will provide relief to millions of small businesses so they can sustain their businesses and keep their workers employed.

This legislation provides small business job retention loans to provide eight weeks of payroll and certain overhead to keep workers employed. Treasury and the Small Business Administration expect to have this program up and running by April 3rd so that businesses can go to a participating SBA 7(a) lender, bank, or credit union, apply for a loan, and be approved on the same day.

The loans will be forgiven as long as the funds are used to keep employees on the payroll and for certain other expenses. The new loan program will be available retroactive from Feb. 15, 2020, so employers can rehire their recently laid-off employees through June 30, 2020.

We encourage you to tell local businesses to visit [SBA.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.sba.gov/coronavirus) for more information on the Paycheck Protection Program.

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