



## **Town of Bristol**

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To: The Residents of Bristol  
From: Bob Green – Town Supervisor  
Date: 19MAR2020  
Re: COVID – 19 Updates

**Greetings to our residents in most challenging times.**

**As you know, a State, National, and County State of Emergency have been declared to face the COVID-19 pandemic. As a Town, we have had to make modifications in municipal business and hours. However, business does continue and ask for your patience until we are able to maintain an atmosphere of normalcy.**

**The Town Clerk has reduced hours to 10am to 12noon and 1pm to 3pm M-F or by appointment (229-2400). The Town Assessor and Planning/Zoning are working remotely from their homes and will be checking their voicemails on a regular basis.**

**The Highway Department will be working a staggered shift. All of which will be reassessed as new information becomes available.**

**The Town Court will reconvene 20MAY2020. It is to be noted that all courts are taking their direction from the NYS Office of Court Administration. The voice mail for Town Court is 229-4523.**

**We ask that anyone who is sick or shows any signs of respiratory issues (COVID-19), been exposed to someone that is currently under care, **not enter the building**. Please call for information and an alternative plan.**

**And finally, please check on your neighbors. Either by phone, text, e-mail or a knock on the door (while maintaining social distancing). We are in this together. We will travel through this together.**

**Be careful, stay safe, and be well.**

From: Chairman Jack Marren – Ontario County Board of Supervisors.

To help keep up with the quickly changing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, below are some important resources related to the economic impacts for businesses and workers...

- Governor Cuomo late yesterday issued an executive order that directs non-essential businesses to implement work-from-home policies effective Friday, March 20. Businesses that rely on in-

office personnel must decrease their in-office workforce by 50 percent:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-2026-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>

- Governor Cuomo earlier yesterday issued a separate executive order that includes several health care items and also information about closures at malls and amusement-related businesses:  
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-2025-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>
- ESD has set up a [web portal](#) and [FAQ](#) page for individuals and businesses with business-related COVID-19 issues and questions on this website with all COVID-19 info:  
<https://esd.ny.gov/esd-covid-19-related-resources>
- ESD supported Governor Cuomo in New York State's declaration for SBA disaster assistance. We expect approval by the end of the week. This will allow small businesses and not-for-profits to apply for SBA disaster loans.
- Many businesses and organizations have expressed a desire to support New York State as it responds to the virus outbreak. Individuals or groups looking to volunteer or contribute to the State's effort should contact the Governor's Office at [covid19assistance@exec.ny.gov](mailto:covid19assistance@exec.ny.gov).
- DOL has been working hard to keep up with the new demand for Unemployment Insurance and has institute new rules that include extended ours and restrictions about when to file based on your last name:  
<https://labor.ny.gov/pressreleases/2020/march-17-2020-1.shtm>
- DOL is also reminding businesses of its Shared Work Program that can provide an alternative to laying off employees during business downturns by allowing workers to work a reduced work schedule and collect partial unemployment insurance benefits for up to 26 weeks. Instead of cutting staff, you able to reduce the number of hours of all employees or just a certain group:  
<https://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/employerinfo/shared-work-program.shtm>
- Below is the main NYS page for all COVID-19 information:  
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

For Immediate Release: 3/18/2020

GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

**AMID ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC, GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES DEPLOYMENT OF 1,000-BED HOSPITAL SHIP 'USNS COMFORT' TO NEW YORK HARBOR**

See [here](#) for a photo of the USNS Comfort

***Issues Executive Order Directing Non-Essential Businesses to Implement Work from Home Policies Effective Friday, March 20***

***Businesses that Require In-Office Personnel Must Decrease In-Office Workforce by 50 Percent***

***Exceptions Made for Essential Services — Including Shipping Industry, Warehouses, Grocery and Food Production, Pharmacies, Media, Banks and Related Financial Institutions, and Businesses Essential to Supply Chain***

***Confirms 1,008 Additional Coronavirus Cases in New York State - Bringing Statewide Total to 2,382; New Cases in 20 Counties***

***Governor Meeting Today with Army Corp of Engineers to Discuss Hospital Surge Capacity***

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced the USNS Comfort will be deployed to New York harbor and is expected to arrive in April. The 1,000-bed hospital ship has 12 fully-equipped operating rooms and will significantly increase New York's hospital surge capacity. The Governor is meeting with leadership of the Army Corp of Engineers today to discuss ways to increase hospital capacity in New York.

The Governor also announced he will issue an executive order directing non-essential businesses to implement work-from-home policies effective Friday, March 20. Businesses that rely on in-office personnel must decrease their in-office workforce by 50 percent. The executive order exempts essential service industries, including shipping, media, warehousing, grocery and food production, pharmacies, healthcare providers, utilities, banks and related financial institutions, and other industries critical to the supply chain.

"We are fighting a war against this pandemic and we know that two of the most effective ways to stop it is by reducing density and increasing our hospital capacity so our healthcare system is not overwhelmed," **Governor Cuomo said.** "The deployment of the USNS Comfort to New York is an extraordinary but necessary step to help ensure our state has the capacity to handle an influx of patients with COVID-19 and continue our efforts to contain the virus. Partnering with the private sector to require nonessential employees to work from home will also go a long way toward bending the curve. My number one priority is protecting the public health so that a wave of new cases doesn't crash our hospital system, and we will continue taking any action necessary to achieve that goal."



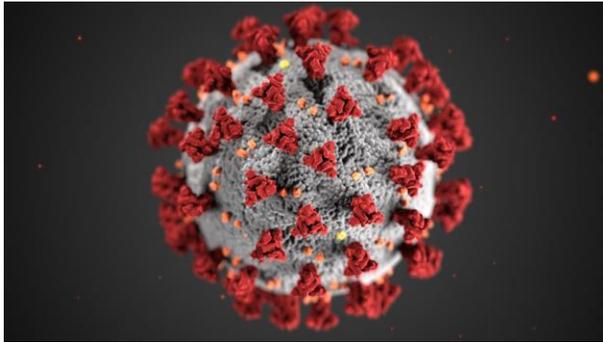
## NYSAC Special Bulletin

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."

### Counties are Leading the Way – Thank you!

A special thank you to our public health officials, public safety officers, and essential county workers who are keeping our residents safe and healthy during this historic public health emergency.

Our county leaders are continuing to ask people to stay home and encourage residents to regularly wash their hands and practice social distancing.



### Update on NYS Executive Action on COVID 19

The Governor has instituted [5 Executive Orders](#), and most counties have declared a local state of emergency. Any local emergency order (or charter, law, reg, etc.) that conflicts with any of the executive directives is suspended, according to Executive Order 202.3.

Beginning today, and ending April 1st, all school districts will be closed across the state ([Exec Order #202.4](#)). Schools are directed to develop a plan for alternative instructional options, distribution and availability of meals, and childcare, with an emphasis on serving children of parents in the health care profession or first responders.

Local government staffing reductions are effective today, 3/17, according to Executive Order #202.4. Non-essential personnel (as determined by the local government) must work from home or take leave without charging accruals. There are exemptions for personnel essential to the COVID-19 response. Non-essential personnel must be at least 50% of the total number of employees.

Village elections scheduled for today (3/17) are postponed, as per Executive Order #202.4. Any large gathering or event that expects more than 50 people in attendance must be cancelled or postponed ([Exec Order #202.3](#)).

Effective yesterday at 8 p.m., bars and restaurants are take-out only. Retail on-premises licensees can sell alcohol for take-out or delivery during this period. This same Executive Order has also closed casinos and gyms effective yesterday (3/16) at 8 p.m.

### Three-Way Agreement on Paid Sick Leave

This afternoon, the Governor reached a three-way agreement with legislative leaders to pass a paid sick leave program. The legislature is expected to take up this legislation on Wednesday.

For public employers, each employee who is subject to a mandatory or precautionary order of quarantine or isolation, due to COVID-19 shall be provided with at least 14 days of paid sick leave during the mandatory or precautionary order of quarantine or isolation. This legislation provides paid sick leave without loss of an employee's accrued sick leave.

These benefits in general are also extended to the private sector as well. However, the level of paid sick leave benefit varies depending on the number of employees and the amount of revenue generated by a private sector company.

You can read a full copy of the legislation [here](#).



### Counties Innovating

In the face of unprecedented challenges, counties are innovating to find solutions to respond to the COVID-19 threat. NYSAC is collecting some of these solutions and will providing them through an interactive blog. For example,

[Tompkins County set up a drive-by testing lab that launched operations yesterday.](#)

### Economic Impact on Counties

NYSAC is projecting a more than \$1 billion impact on New York State counties, outside of New York City. When you include New York City and all of economic activities that take place in the City, we are projecting a more than \$5 billion impact on our local economies.



### Price Gouging Hotline

The NYS Attorney General has developed a price gouging hotline at 1-800-697-1220. If county officials, local leaders, or residents see any price gouging for supplies during this crisis, they are being asked to the Attorney General's office.

[Learn more about price gouging here.](#)

### **Small Business Assistance**

The Small Business Administration (SBA) of the US Government can provide up to \$2 million in disaster assistance loans to provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing. These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%.

### **Update on State Budget Timeline**

The state is considering an omnibus provision within the state budget to extend all outstanding local home rule bills - sales tax, mortgage recording tax, etc. We are continuing to urge leadership in both houses to reject Part R (the Medicaid amendments).

The State Capitol has been closed as of Sunday until further notice. In the meantime, 3-way budget negotiations have been underway since late Saturday afternoon. The Comptroller and Governor agreed that the Governor's revenue estimates are \$4-\$7 billion higher than what is now projected due to the economic fluctuations due to COVID-19.

There is a sense of urgency in the state Capitol to negotiate and pass a state budget and then not return to the State Capitol for several months.

### **Update on Federal Coronavirus Response**

Last night, the House of Representatives passed H. Res 904, technical amendments to H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which was passed over the past weekend. This bill is a Medicaid fiscal lifeline for the state of between \$5 and \$7 billion, and hundreds of millions in support for counties. We are now waiting on the U.S. Senate to take up the revised bill.

For a deeper dive on the H.R.6201, read our [blog post](#).

### **Additional Stimulus Package**

President Trump is proposing an \$850 billion fiscal stimulus package comprised mainly of tax cuts and cash assistance to heavily impacted industries such as airlines and tourism related industries.

Senator Schumer is proposing a \$750 billion stimulus package of new spending initiatives as opposed to an all tax cuts approach. We expect a combination of both will be part of any final package.