



May 18, 2020

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 crisis together, please continue reaching out to us as issues arise for you and for your businesses. We are and will continue to remain in regular contact with key stakeholders at the State Agencies and with the Administration to advocate on your behalf. Below please find updates and new information since our last update.

WHAT'S NEW TODAY

Governor Cuomo Press Briefing

- Today's briefing was held at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo. The Governor was joined by Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul.
- After receiving a COVID-19 test at yesterday's briefing to show the public that it is easy and pain-free to get tested, the Governor announced that the result was negative.
- The total number of hospitalizations and intubations continue to fall. The number of new hospitalizations decreased slightly but has remained relatively flat. There were 373 new hospitalizations on May 17th.



- There were a total of 106 COVID-19-related deaths on May 17th. Of these, 83 were hospital deaths and 23 were in nursing homes. A total of 22,729 New Yorkers have passed away from coronavirus (NYSDOH).



- The State is sending 320,000 test kits to nursing homes around the state this week to help facilities test employees twice per week. The State is requiring all nursing home staff to be tested twice per week and is working with testing labs to facilitate the process.

Nursing Homes

Quest Diagnostics, LabCorp, BioReference Laboratories, ENCO, bostonheart diagnostics, Northwell Health

To help nursing homes meet this requirement, New York State is connecting facilities with labs that have reserved at least 35,000 tests/day just for this purpose.

STAY HOME. STOP THE SPREAD. SAVE LIVES.

- **REOPENING:** The Western New York region has now hit all seven metrics needed to begin phase one of reopening the economy. Phase one businesses in Western New York are eligible to reopen tomorrow, May 19, 2020.



- The Governor is advising major sports teams to plan to reopen without fans. The State will offer logistical assistance to these teams to address problems associated with resuming games. In response to a question from a reporter, the Governor said that franchises will have to examine whether its financially viable to hold games without fans. The State will work with teams to help them through the process. The Governor offered his personal opinion that he is excited to watch the Buffalo Bills this fall.



- Western New York and the other regions that have met the seven public health metrics to reopen will have Regional Control Rooms monitor data to inform the continuation into the next phases of reopening.
- The Governor has said that there will be two weeks between phases as a general rule, but if the data indicates a region can move faster or slower, they can adjust the timeline.



- State Budget Director Robert Mujica said that houses of worship will not be fully open until phase four. The State is looking into how houses of worship can reopen with limited capacity and social distancing.
- In response to a question regarding tourism, the Governor stated this is not just a New York question but a national and international question of when people can get back onto planes and attend “jam packed” venues such as stadiums, restaurants, bars, boats, etc. The Governor said we are not there yet.
- New York State Department of Health has granted a waiver for Erie County Medical Center to perform elective surgeries.
- Judges and staff will return to Courthouses in thirty Upstate Counties this week.

UP-TO-DATE GUIDANCE

- New York State Energy Research & Development Authority:
 - [INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES](#)
 - [Construction Guidelines for Employers and Employees](#)
- Empire State Development: [Guidance for Determining Whether a Business Enterprise is Subject to a Workforce Reduction Under Recent Executive Orders](#)
 - There have been no changes since our last update.
- New York City: [Agency Suspensions and Reductions](#)
 - There have been no changes since our last update.

Attached please find a comprehensive document with guidance from across government agencies. We will be updating this document as information becomes available and including it in our daily updates.

In addition to our regular email updates, Ostroff Associates has established two dedicated webpages that will be updated in real time with any new information from government sources relating to COVID-19. Please use these websites as a resource and share with others who would benefit.

Update Page: <https://www.ostroffassociates.com/covid-19-updates/>

News Page: <https://www.ostroffassociates.com/category/covid-19/>

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Ostroff Associates | 150 State Street, Suite 301 | Albany, New York 12207 | (518) 436-6202 | ostroffassociates.com