

May 20, 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

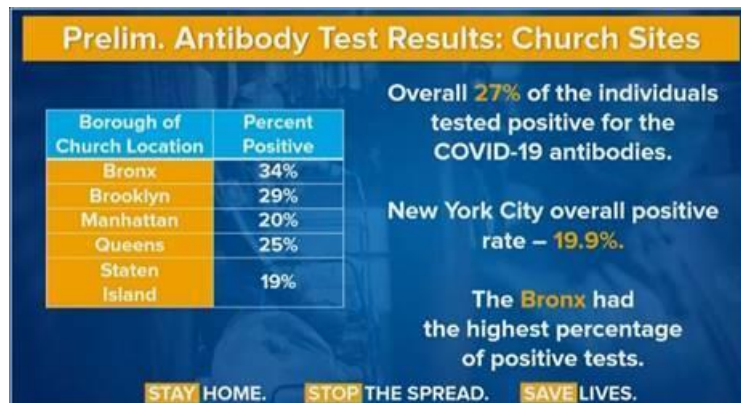
- The total number of hospitalizations and intubations continue to fall. The number of new hospitalizations decreased slightly but has remained relatively flat. There were 295 new hospitalizations on May 19th.



- There were a total of 112 COVID-19-related deaths on May 19th. Of these, 82 were hospital deaths and 30 were in nursing homes. A total of 22,843 New Yorkers have passed away from coronavirus (NYSDOH).



- In response to a question from a reporter regarding the reopening of certain tribal casinos on June 10th, the Governor said the State does not have a planned date that casinos will be able to reopen. He said these facilities by nature are places where patrons touch things and interact, so they are not sure how quickly they can open. The Governor has spoken to the Governors of New Jersey and Connecticut and they agree casinos are large gathering spots, which poses challenges. The Governor stated that casinos would be able to open in the last phase (phase 4), but that tribal casinos are not bound by state law.
- The State partnered with the faith-based community to conduct antibody testing in low-income, high-impact areas of NYC to study the virus's effect on these communities. The study found that certain zip codes show large fluctuations in positive results. One zip code in the Bronx showed a 43% positive rate and the Bronx had the highest overall percentage of positives. Zip codes representing lower income and primarily minority residents showed the highest percent positive.



- The State is developing targeted strategies to address the high infection rates in minority communities. Northwell Health is going to work through the faith-based community to increase testing in these neighborhoods. The State will also expand its testing program from eight to forty public housing units. The State will also direct all local governments to prioritize testing efforts in low income communities and develop outreach programs.



- Starting tomorrow, religious institutions will be able to host gatherings of ten or fewer people and drive-in and parking lot services. To develop a plan to begin holding larger religious ceremonies, the State is convening an “interfaith advisory council.” The council will develop guidelines in order to hold services in a safe manner.
- Michaela Kennedy-Cuomo, the Governor’s daughter, released five finalists from 600 submissions for an ad campaign urging people to wear masks in public. The videos are available to watch and vote for [here](#). The Governor urged the public to wear masks by showing that frontline workers, including healthcare workers, police, and corrections workers have a lower infection rate than the general public because they wear personal protective equipment (PPE). The winner of the contest will have their video used as New York’s Public Service Announcement on masks.

Wear a Mask		
Occupation	Percent Positive	
Downstate Transit Workers	14.2%	19.9% NYC General Population
Downstate Healthcare Workers	12.2%	
NYPD	10.5%	
FDNY/EMT	17.1%	
DOCCS	7.5%	12.3% NYS General Population
State Police	3.1%	

UP-TO-DATE GUIDANCE

- 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](#)
 - [Updated: Administration for Children's Services \(ACS\)](#)
 - [Updated: Department for the Aging \(DFTA\)](#)

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.

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