

May 26, 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 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

New York State Legislative Session

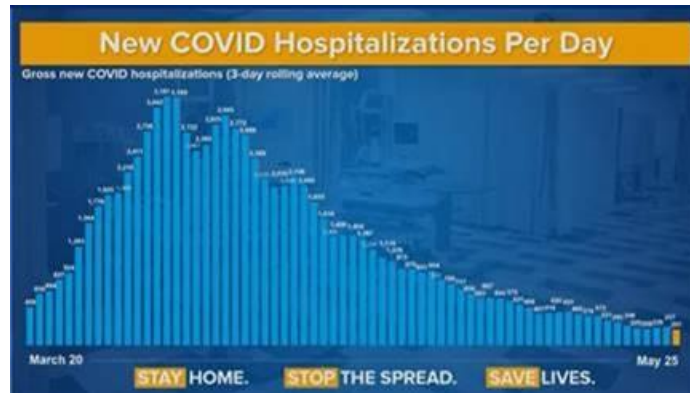
The State Senate and Assembly will hold committee meetings today to advance a number of bills relating to the coronavirus crisis. Both Houses will also hold session Wednesday (5/26) and Thursday (5/27) to pass the bills. The legislature will be following the rules on remote voting passed in March that were used to pass the State Budget while following social distancing protocols.

Governor Cuomo Press Briefing

- Today's press briefing took place at New York Stock Exchange Board Room in New York City.



- The total number of hospitalizations and intubations continue to fall. The number of new hospitalizations has remained relatively flat but is trending downward. There were 200 new hospitalizations on May 25th, the lowest total since the crisis started.



- There were a total of 73 COVID-19-related deaths on May 25th, the lowest daily death total since the crisis started. Of these, 52 were hospital deaths and 21 were in nursing homes. A total of 23,488 New Yorkers have passed away from coronavirus (NYSDOH).



- The Governor said that Memorial Day weekend 2020 will be remembered as the weekend we turned the corner and marked the beginning of the reopening of New York.



- **REOPENING:** The Mid-Hudson region will begin phase one of reopening today (5/26) and Long Island will begin phase one tomorrow (5/27). Once these two regions begin phase one, all regions of the State except New York City will have started the reopening process. The Mid-Hudson region includes Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. The Long Island region includes Nassau and Suffolk counties. Phase one of reopening includes the construction, agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, retail (limited to curbside or in-store pickup or drop off), manufacturing, and wholesale trade industries.



- The State will focus on building cross-state electric transmission lines to develop the renewable market upstate and satisfy demand downstate. It will also expedite building a power cable from Canada to New York City. The Governor would like the State to continue to invest in renewable energy projects to spur economic development.



- The Governor is traveling to Washington D.C. tomorrow to meet with President Trump to push him to approve these infrastructure projects and provide federal funding to jump start the economy.
- The Governor announced the winners of the Wear a Mask ad campaign. Videos can be viewed [here](#). The 1st and 2nd place ad were only separated by 500 votes, so the State will run both ads.
- In response to a question from a reporter, the Governor said that in order to completely reopen New York City the public transportation network, including the Metro-North and Long Island Railroad, need to be fully operational. There is no other feasible option for all commuters to get to work once all businesses reopen.

[New York City Executive Order No. 115](#)

- Allows for gatherings of ten or fewer individuals where such individuals adhere to applicable social distancing protocols and cleaning and disinfection protocols are permitted. Any drive-in or remote religious service may continue in excess of the ten-person limit provided there is no in-person contact between participants. Vehicle caravans are permitted.
- Suspends for the duration of the emergency, periodic compliance reporting and inspections of privately owned public spaces to the extent such provisions impose deadlines for inspections or submission of compliance reports.

UP-TO-DATE GUIDANCE

- New York State Education Department: [Regents Examination and Graduation Requirements Questions Related to COVID-19 Closure](#)
- Empire State Development: [Guidance for Determining Whether a Business Enterprise is Subject to a Workforce Reduction Under Recent Executive Orders](#)
 - Since our last update the following changes were made:
 - “Emergency” was removed from “emergency veterinary” to allow for all veterinary and livestock medical services.
 - The essential infrastructure section was updated to include campgrounds as essential.
 - The guidance was updated to allow “ten or fewer people to gather for any lawful purpose or reason, provided that social distancing protocols and cleaning and disinfection protocols required by the Department of Health are adhered to.” This language does not apply to businesses.
 - The guidance was updated to allow “any drive-in or remote religious service may continue in excess of the ten person limit so long as there is no in-person contact between participants. Faith leaders should continue to consider and use alternative forms of worship, replacing in-person gatherings with virtual services, such as phone or conference calls, videoconference calls, or online streaming, wherever possible, and congregations of groups for religious service or ceremony in excess of ten in-person participants remain prohibited.”
- 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.

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