



May 27, 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

Governor Cuomo Press Briefing

- Today's press briefing took place at National Press Club in Washington D.C. The Governor was in Washington today to meet with President Trump to discuss Federal funding to help state and local governments recover from coronavirus related budget deficits. The Governor also called out Republican Senators, including U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, for not approving Federal funds for state and local governments.
- The Governor said that this is not the time for politics and that throughout the crisis he has attempted to take politics out of the equation, but that certain facts still exist. When natural disasters like Hurricanes Katrina and Harvey hit red states, the nation comes together to help. He also said New York is a "donor state" because it gives \$29 billion more in taxes to the Federal Government than it takes back every year. New York and other donor states have been the most affected by coronavirus and need funding from the Federal Government to fill budget deficits. McConnell's home state is one of the largest "receiving states," so Governor Cuomo said that Kentucky is actually the state that continually gets bailed out by New York.



- The Governor said he discussed infrastructure projects that could help supercharge New York’s economy with the President. The two leaders will discuss the issues again next week. The Governor advocated for a national infrastructure program to create jobs, grow the economy, and provide public works.



- In New York, there are large infrastructure projects ready to go but need federal approval. The Cross-Hudson Tunnels project has been stalled because Washington has not approved it and the Governor said he raised the project with the President this morning. He also raised the Second Avenue Subway and the Airtrain at LaGuardia Airport projects with President Trump. New York is ready to begin these projects immediately, and the Governor said he has a “shovel in his trunk” to start today if they get approved. The Governor said he told the President these projects don’t serve just New York but the whole Northeast and there is no national recovery if New York and the region cannot recover.



- The total number of hospitalizations and intubations continue to fall. The number of new hospitalizations continues to trend downward. There were 181 new hospitalizations on May 26th, the lowest total since the crisis started.



- There were a total of 74 COVID-19-related deaths on May 26th, the lowest daily death total since the crisis started. Of these, 48 were hospital deaths and 26 were in nursing homes. A total of 23,643 New Yorkers have passed away from coronavirus (NYSDOH).



- New York has successfully flattened, then lowered the State's curve, but nationally the curve is still on its plateau. New York's experience – that the plateau is long and

the decline of the curve is much slower than the incline – may indicate that national numbers may stay high for a long time.



- REOPENING:** The Long Island region has met all seven public health metrics to begin phase one of reopening. All regions of the State are now in phase one except New York City. 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 Long Island region includes Nassau and Suffolk Counties.



Federally-Backed Business Interruption Insurance Fund Proposal

The New York State Congressional delegation led by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney has introduced a bill that will create a federally-backed business interruption insurance fund to cover losses from a pandemic. Under this proposal, insurers would offer pandemic coverage with the promise that the federal government will cover a portion of the losses, up to \$750 billion per year. Businesses would not be required to purchase the insurance, nor would insurers be required to join the program.

This proposal is modeled after the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) after the World Trade Center attacks on 9/11 where the federal government will serve as a “backstop” that provides funds as insurance company reserves run dry.

UP-TO-DATE GUIDANCE

- New York State Energy Research & Development Authority: [New York Forward Return-to-Work Guidance Webinar](#)
- 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](#)
 - The [Department of Sanitation](#) has been updated.

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