

COVID-19 Weekly "What You Need to Know"

As of May 20, 2020, 10:55 AM

The information in this compilation is current only as of the above date and time.

Purpose: The purpose of this posting is to provide residents of New York State with a consolidated update of guidance released by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. This will show only current guidance for any given topic and will be updated to reflect new guidance.

- Capital Region, Western New York, Central New York, North County, Finger Lakes, Southern Tier and Mohawk Valley Regions have met all seven metrics required to begin phase one of the [state's regional phased reopening plan](#).
- NYS on PAUSE will continue through May 28 for regions that have not started reopening; a region can enter Phase One of reopening as soon as it meets its required metrics.
- Governor Cuomo released a [guide](#) to the state's "NY Forward Reopening" Plan, along with the state's [regional monitoring dashboard](#).
- New York State has doubled testing capacity to reach 40,000 diagnostic tests per day, and has more than 700 testing sites. We encourage [eligible New Yorkers](#) to [find a nearby testing site](#) and get tested.
- Nassau County is now eligible to resume elective surgeries and ambulatory care.
- A two-week hospital visitation [pilot program](#) in 16 hospitals across the state will allow increased visitations for family members and loved ones.
- Memorial Day ceremonies of 10 people or less will be allowed statewide, with final decisions about ceremonies being left to local governments.
- New York is bringing in [international experts](#) to help advise the state's reopening plan.
- Testing efforts will be increased to help nursing homes meet guidelines stating all staff be tested for COVID-19 twice per week.
- Governor Cuomo called on the FDA to ensure that pharmaceutical corporations that produce a COVID-19 vaccine release the rights to provide the vaccine for immediate widespread distribution.
- In coordination with neighboring states, public and private beaches will open with certain restrictions on May 22, ahead of Memorial Day weekend.
- Horse racing tracks statewide and Watkins Glen International Racetrack will be allowed to open without fans as of June 1st.
- Governor Cuomo issued executive orders [202.17](#) and [202.18](#) requiring all people in New York to wear masks or [face coverings in public](#), including when taking public or private transportation or riding in for-hire vehicles.
- New York has [issued first-in-the-nation criteria](#) to healthcare professionals establishing an interim definition for [COVID-related inflammatory illness in children](#).
- New Yorkers without health insurance can apply through NY State of Health through June 15, 2020; must apply within 60 days of losing coverage.
- Health care workers can text NYFRONTLINE to 741-741 to access 24/7 emotional support services.
- New Yorkers can call the COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 1-844-863-9314 for mental health counseling.
- Testing is free for all eligible New Yorkers as ordered by a health care provider.
- Your [local health department](#) is your community contact for COVID-19 concerns.