

March 12, 2020  
COVID-19 UPDATE

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER  
**KEITH POWERS**



Dear Neighbor:

As New York City actively responds to the coronavirus (COVID-19), I wanted to provide information and resources on the City's preparations.

As of Thursday afternoon, there are 328 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New York, with 95 reported in the city. The Mayor declared a state of emergency in response. The Department of Health has issued several [recommendations](#) on how to help stop the spread of the virus:

- Stay home if you are sick, and avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, like your cell phone.

**For the most up-to-date information, I encourage you to visit the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) website: [nyc.gov/coronavirus](https://nyc.gov/coronavirus)**

If you are experiencing fever, cough, or shortness of breath and traveled to an area where COVID-19 is spreading, or you have had close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, call your healthcare provider. Your provider will work with the Health Department to determine if you need testing. If you need help finding a healthcare provider, call 311.

#### **Community Response**

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Frick Collection, Radio City Music Hall, and Broadway shows will be closed until further notice. New York City's Saint Patrick's Day Parade is also postponed. Additionally, on Thursday afternoon, the Governor announced that no gatherings over 500 people will be permitted. Several colleges and universities, including SUNY and CUNY, are moving to a distance-learning model for the rest of the semester. As public event postponements and cancellations, as well as institution closures, are changing by the hour, I encourage you to please check with the organizers of any events you may plan to attend in the future.

At this time, public schools will continue to be open and public transportation will continue to operate as usual.

### **Contacting My Office**

If you are aware of any instances of price gouging, need small business assistance, have questions about the public school protocols or public transportation systems, or other city-related matters, please reach out to my office.

Additionally, out of an abundance of caution, my office will be closed to constituent walk-ins at this time. [Staff](#) will be available to take your calls and answer your questions. We will postpone mobile office hours for the month of March.

As we respond to this situation as a city, I appreciate the work of healthcare professionals, first responders, and all New Yorkers putting our safety first.



Keith

***For further updates, please reference the following resources from various agencies:***

- [News from the Mayor's Office](#)
- [Department of Health](#), *includes multiple guidance documents*
- [Department of Education](#)
- [Small Business Services](#), *includes financial aid program information*