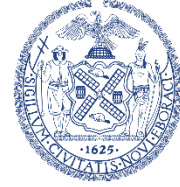


March 16, 2020
COVID-19 UPDATE + INFORMATION

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER **KEITH POWERS**



Dear Neighbor:

As COVID-19 impacts all of our lives, I know that this is a trying time for many. I wanted to provide you with the most recent information.

As of Monday afternoon, New York City has 463 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Per the Mayor, the borough breakdown is as follows: 118 in Queens, 111 in Manhattan, 62 in Brooklyn, 34 in The Bronx, and 19 on Staten Island. (Please note these numbers will not add up to the total number of cases. The breakdown is as of 11:00 A.M. this morning). **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**

Public Schools

New York City public schools are closed through April 20 at the earliest. This was a decision that does not come lightly, as many students – and parents – rely on the invaluable services of the school system, including meals.

Per the Department of Education, the following measures will be in place:

- **All week:** Meals will be served this week at your school as a “grab-and-go” service, with additional information to follow.
- **Monday, March 16:** Citywide closure. Students, teachers, and principals do not report.
- **Tuesday, March 17-Thursday, March 19:** All staff reports. Teachers and principals participate in professional development on remote learning.
- **Thursday, March 19-Friday, March 20:** Students who need it will be able to begin the process of picking up the technology necessary for remote learning. More guidance to families will be sent this week.
- **Monday, March 23:** Remote learning launches, with additional guidance provided throughout the week of the 23.

To keep busy at this time, the DOE has learn-at-home resources, as well: [Learn at Home](#). These do not replace remote-learning materials and are supplementary to coursework.

Additional details can be found here: [NYC Public School Closure Information](#)

Businesses and Restaurants

Beginning tomorrow, restaurants, bars and cafes can only serve take-out and delivery. You can continue to order directly from businesses or use third-party delivery services.

Nightclubs, movie theaters, gyms, small theater houses, and concert venues will all close.

This will have a significant impact on various businesses' bottom line. Businesses are being asked to fill out this [survey](#) from Small Business Services to stay up to date on industry-specific guidance from the City, as well as reach out for financial assistance and loan programs: [COVID-19 Business Assistance Survey](#)

Effective at 8:00 P.M. Monday night, crowd capacity will be limited to no more than 50 people.

Senior Centers and Food Distribution

Programming at several senior centers across the city will be suspended until further notice. If you are seeking a hot meal, select senior centers will still be offering take-home meals. Please contact my office at (212) 818-0580.

Parks and Playgrounds

City parks, playgrounds, and recreation centers are open for the foreseeable future. The Department of Parks is in close consultation with the Mayor's Office and DOHMH as the situation develops. The Department advises all park goers and recreation center members to heed guidance being provided by appropriate authorities and take extra precautions to stay healthy and safe. The best place to stay updated on ongoing developments is on the [Parks Department's website](#).

Price Gouging

As certain disinfectants and sanitizers have been in high-demand, various retailers are increasing the price of, or price gouging, these products. If you notice this, please contact my office.

The products that retailers cannot increase prices on by more than 10% include: thermometers, baby/sanitizing wipes, paper towels, latex gloves, face masks, fever reducers, cough suppressants, zinc oxide supplements, facial tissue, toilet paper, rubbing alcohol, and aloe vera.

My Office Protocols

My office will continue to be closed to constituent walk-ins at this time and essential meetings will be held virtually. [Staff](#) and I will be available to take your calls and answer your questions. Mobile office hours are postponed for the month of March.

Please reach out to me at kpowers@council.nyc.gov with any needs and questions.



Keith

