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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
KEITH POWERS



Dear Neighbor:

We can all agree that New York City looks and feels a little bit different right now. But, as ever in a crisis, New Yorkers are stepping up. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the healthcare workers, transit workers, grocery and delivery workers, teachers, sanitation workers, police officers and firefighters, the doctors and officers staffing our city jails, the journalists covering the pandemic, and many more.

I also would like to thank all of our neighbors who are practicing social distancing, spreading joy to those who need it, looking to help, and to every New Yorker who is hanging in there during tough times.

We need your spirit more than ever.

Please read on for specific updates and reach out to me at kpowers@council.nyc.gov or call 212-818-0580 with any needs and questions. I also encourage you to [visit my COVID-19 webpage for further and ongoing information](#).

We are here to help.

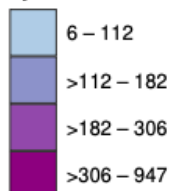
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith".

Keith

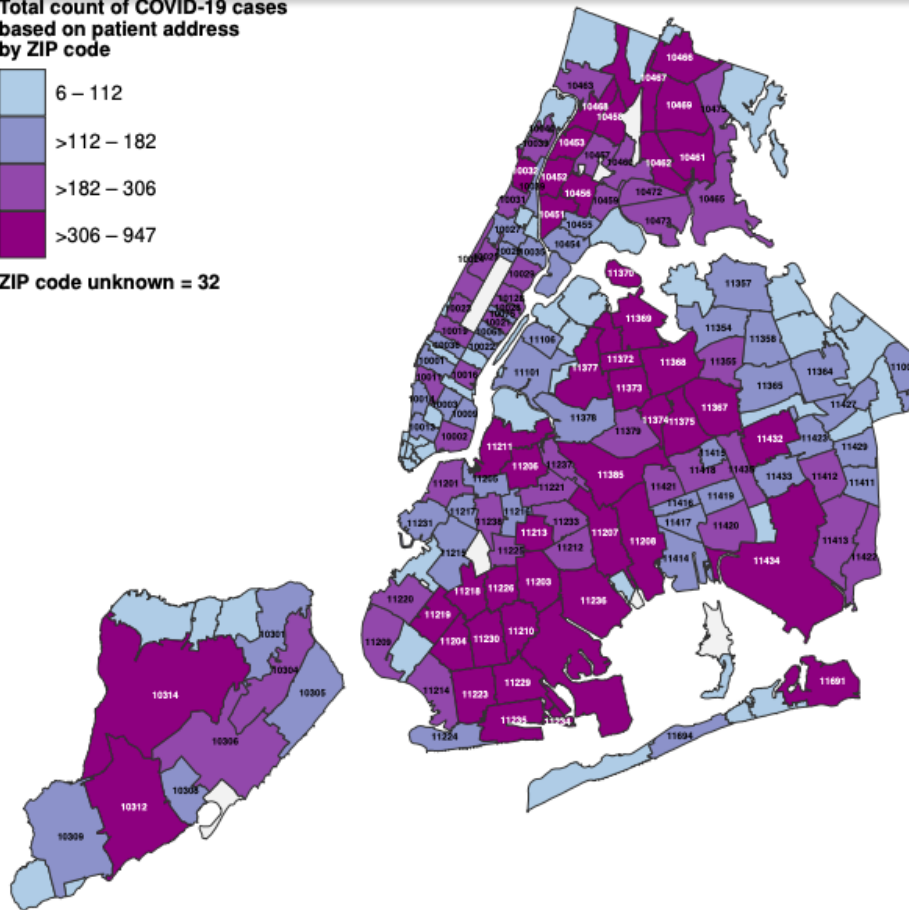
COVID-19 News and Updates

As of April 2 at 9:30 A.M., there are 48,462 cases of COVID-19 in New York City, and 1,397 deaths, according to the [NYC Department of Health](#).

**Total count of COVID-19 cases
based on patient address
by ZIP code**



ZIP code unknown = 32



N = 38936 total cases as of March 31, 2020

Over the weekend, Governor Cuomo extended the PAUSE order for non-essential employees to continue to work from home through April 15. This will be evaluated on an ongoing basis. The CDC also issued new guidance for residents in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut to avoid non-essential domestic travel for two weeks to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Until New York State is at full capacity for testing, the Department of Health has issued [guidance](#) to ensure that New York State prioritizes the resources to meet the most urgent public health need. New York City has created a tool to help learn more about the coronavirus and provide guidance to those in need: [access the NYC COVID-19 Engagement Portal](#).

Halt to Construction

As of March 27, all non-essential construction has been shut down until further notice. Construction at this time is unhelpful, unhealthy, and unsafe, causing both an interruption to those now at home and a threat to public health. The Department of Buildings (DOB) has issued [guidance](#) regarding what qualifies as essential construction. Please reach out to my office with questions.

Parks and Playgrounds
Playground across New York City will close, Governor Cuomo announced on April 1. Parks remain open, with social distance guidelines strictly enforced. Solo exercise is OK, but team sports are not permitted. Basketball hoops were removed from some parks, including St. Vartan Park in Murray Hill, to prevent crowding. A stretch of Park Avenue (from 28th-34th Streets) has been opened to pedestrians to allow for more space, from 10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. Stay updated at nyc.gov/parks.

Hospitals and the Healthcare System

COVID-19 has put a strain on our healthcare system, from supplies to staffing. To care for individuals with non-COVID-19 related illnesses, the Javits Convention Center has been converted to a medical center and temporary hospital. Additionally, Mt. Sinai has built out its operations to Central Park's East Meadow, at 99th Street and 5th Avenue, as a designated respiratory care unit.

Notably, the State overturned an order that had [mandated](#) expectant mothers to give birth alone. Expectant mothers are now allowed one visitor during the time of birth, allowing them the ability to be with their partner.

Paying Your Rent During COVID-19

Many New Yorkers have become increasingly concerned with paying their rent. Together with Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, and Council Member Robert Cornegy, I proposed an idea for immediate rent relief: using money locked up in security deposits to help pay the rent. With thousands of tenants facing sudden and unprecedented hardships, we must look toward immediate solutions for those struggling to make their next rent payments. Under the proposal, tenants could use existing, pre-paid security deposits to supplement rent payment, which allows time to seek relief.

Following this, we sent a letter to the Mayor and Governor, requesting a workable mechanism to allow tenants to cover rent with security deposits. Read more in the [Daily News](#).

For individuals living in Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village, management has issued [a plan](#) for those impacted by COVID19. Read more on [NY1](#).

Federal Rescue Package Approved in Congress

On March 27, Congress approved a \$2 trillion stimulus package, the largest in our nation's history. The package has more than \$40 billion in specific aid dedicated to New York, including protections for workers, resources for small businesses, and healthcare aid.

You can read more about the package [here](#).

How to Help

My office is monitoring volunteer opportunities for organizations who need support. While we encourage you to exercise an abundance of caution, the following have informed my office of the need for volunteers:

Food Security and Food Banks

- [Citymeals on Wheels](#)
- [God's Love We Deliver](#)
- [New York Cares](#)
- [Emergency food organizations](#)

Hospital and Healthcare Workers

My office has heard from various nurses of the need for food and laundry services. NYC Health + Hospitals is accepting donations to cover some of these essentials. You can help make sure those on the front lines can come

first: <https://nychhc.networkforgood.com>

Note: Our neighboring non-profits are working to respond to a high-demand of requests and needs differ day-by-day.

Please email my office at kpowers@council.nyc.gov for the most updated information. Visit my [website](#) for more information.

Where to Grocery Shop: Designated Hours for Vulnerable Populations

Several supermarkets have adjusted their hours to benefit senior citizens and individuals with disabilities and who are immunocompromised during COVID-19. Stores are allowing an extra hour in the mornings to shop:

Upper East Side:

- D'Agostino's (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday and Wednesday) – 1074 Lexington Avenue
- D'Agostino's (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday and Wednesday) – 1233 Lexington Avenue
- Morton Williams (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.) – 1066 Third Avenue
- Morton Williams (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.) – 1211 Madison Avenue
- Walgreens/Duane Reade (8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday) – 1091 Lexington Avenue
- Walgreens/Duane Reade (8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday) – 1111 3rd Avenue
- Walgreens/Duane Reade (8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday) – 1191 2nd Avenue
- Walgreens/Duane Reade (8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday) – 1231 Madison Avenue
- Walgreens/Duane Reade (8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday) – 1279 3rd Avenue
- Walgreens/Duane Reade (8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday) – 773 Lexington Avenue
- Westside Market (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.) – 1407 Lexington Avenue
- Whole Foods (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.) – 1551 Third Avenue

- D'Agostino's (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday and Wednesday) – 578 Third Avenue
- D'Agostino's (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday and Wednesday) – 966 First Avenue
- Morton Williams (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.) – 1031 First Avenue
- Morton Williams (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.) – 908 Second Avenue
- Rite Aid (9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.) – 26 Grand Central Terminal
- Walgreens/Duane Reade (8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday) – 122 East 42nd Street
- Walgreens/Duane Reade (8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday) – 300 East 39th Street
- Walgreens/Duane Reade (8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday) – 530 5th Avenue
- Walgreens/Duane Reade (8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday) – 575 Lexington Avenue
- Walgreens/Duane Reade (8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday) – 711 3rd Avenue
- Walgreens/Duane Reade (8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday) – 866 3rd Avenue
- Whole Foods (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.) – 1095 6th Avenue
- Whole Foods (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.) – 226 East 57th Street

Kips Bay:

- D'Agostino's (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday and Wednesday) – 528 Third Avenue
- Morton Williams (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.) – 278 Park Avenue South
- Trader Joe's (8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.) – 200 East 32nd Street
- Walgreens/Duane Reade (8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday) – 465 2nd Avenue

Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village:

- D'Agostino's (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday and Wednesday) – 355 First Avenue
- Morton Williams (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M.) – 311 East 23rd Street
- Trader Joe's (8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.) – 436 East 14th Street
- Walgreens/Duane Reade (8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday) – 298 1st Avenue

Reminder: Fill Out the 2020 Census

In these uncertain times, it is more important than ever to fill out the census -- it is also the easiest it has ever been. For the first time, you are able to fill out the 10-question form online at my2020census.gov. The census is a critical component in determining how much federal funding New York City receives, so it is imperative that all New Yorkers participate. Get involved to make sure New Yorkers are counted by [joining](#) a Neighborhood Organizing Census Committee to help safely get the word out in your community. If you need resources to fill out the census, please contact my office and visit nyc.gov/census to learn more.

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