

Dear Council Members and Community:

In recognition of these difficult times, we are using the site to share information and resources that the NY EMA is marshalling for PLWH and other potentially vulnerable populations. Many of these resources have sprung up in response to the crisis - we cannot verify any resource that is not provided through the city of New York. Please note that some of these resources repeat. If you have additional resources you would like added to this list, please contact

mlawrence1@health.nyc.gov

Be safe!

- 1. Joint Novel Coronavirus Letter to HIV Care Providers from the New York State and City Health Departments**
- 2. Updates on New York State Medicaid: COVID-19 Provisions**
- 3. Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Coronavirus Information**
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The following is a joint novel coronavirus letter to HIV care providers from the New York State and City Health Departments

[Download PDF](#)

Novel Coronavirus and People with HIV

Dear Colleague,

The New York City Health Department and the New York State Department of Health have received questions from HIV care providers about whether there are any specific concerns for people with HIV related to the growing outbreak of novel coronavirus and COVID-19 respiratory disease.

At this moment, people with HIV should follow the same guidance as the general population, and do not need to take additional precautions. Please see New York City's guidance for [health care providers](#) and the [public](#), and New York State's guidance for [providers](#) and the [public](#).

To date, the main [risk factors](#) for severe COVID-19 are older age and co-morbidities including cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory or cardiovascular disease. HIV infection has not specifically been identified as a risk factor, but would be included when guidance refers generally to immune-compromised individuals.

Providers and the public should follow the latest [CDC guidance](#). People who had contact with a person with COVID-19 or travelled to an [affected area](#) and, in the following 14 days, experience fever, cough, or shortness of breath should call their medical provider. Other people who experience mild illness should stay home. Providers should consider evaluating patients with fever and lower respiratory illness that requires hospitalization for possible COVID-19. Follow updated [CDC guidance](#) on who should be evaluated for COVID-19.

Clinics and providers can take steps to prepare for a wider outbreak. Clinics should be [preparing](#) to be able to both respond to a wider coronavirus public health emergency and to maintain their capacity to provide HIV care and treatment. This includes establishing a plan for telemedicine(1) or other mechanisms for providing patient care remotely. Providers should continue to support patients with HIV to achieve and maintain viral suppression; ensure that patients have received recommended influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations; talk to patients about maintaining their supply of medications; and encourage them to maintain social networks remotely.

The coronavirus outbreak is rapidly evolving. Our health departments will share any updates to specific guidance for people with HIV.

Sincerely,

Oni Blackstock, MD, MHS	Charles Gonzalez, MD
Assistant Commissioner Bureau of HIV	Medical Director
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	AIDS Institute New York State Department of Health

1 See [Medicaid billing rules for telehealth services](#)

Updates on New York State Medicaid: COVID-19 Provisions

To find out whether you can qualify for Medicaid or other free and low cost health insurance.

New York State has established an official Declared Disaster Emergency in the State of New York Over COVID-19. There are several enhancements and provisions related to Medicaid that are effective until the emergency has officially ended.

Provisions include:

- Pharmacy Guidance that allows for enhanced flexibility and access for people affected by and at increased risk for COVID-19, including:
 - **90 day supplies** of most prescription and over the counter (OTC) medications for people who are under quarantine or who are considered at higher risk by the CDC (broadly defined as “older adults” and people with “serious chronic medical conditions.”)

- **Transfers** of prescriptions in the case of inability to travel to or access the pharmacy where the prescription was initially filled.
- **Early refills** of both controlled and non-controlled substances allow at the provider's discretion for people who need them due to quarantine or outbreak.
- No cost sharing for testing and treatment for COVID-19, if clinically indicated.
- Allowance for payment for evaluation and management services by telephone, when clinically appropriate, for already established patients of a clinical provider. *(This is not a new provision, but is especially relevant to current guidance regarding social distancing)*

If members need additional clarification regarding the provisions, they should reach out to their Medicaid Managed Care Plan. Sources: New York State Department of Health- issued guidance documents

Additional Medicaid Pharmacy Guidance Regarding the Declared Disaster Emergency in the State of New York over COVID-19

(<http://www2.erie.gov/health/sites/www2.erie.gov.health/files/uploads/pdfs/NYSDOHAdditionalMedicaidPharmacyGuidanceRegardingtheDeclaredDisasterEmergencyintheStateofNewYorkoverCOVID19.pdf>)

COVID-19 Telephonic Communication Services

(https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/update/2020/docs/2020-03-13_covid-19_telephonic.pdf)

New York State Medicaid Coverage and Reimbursement Policy for Services Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

https://health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/update/2020/docs/2020-03-10_covid-19.pdf

In response to the potential impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) on New York State's Uninsured Care Programs' participants, we have expanded access to prescription medications by allowing early refills and a 60-day supply of prescription medications. Contact the Uninsured Care

Programs Pharmacy Intervention hotline at 1-800-732-9503, option #1, if you are having difficulties filling a prescription. The hotline is open Monday – Friday 8:00am -5:00pm.

If you have questions related to the NYS Uninsured Care Program/ADAP services, please contact the Uninsured Care Programs hotline at 1-800-542-2437 or 1-844-682-4058.

Resources:

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Coronavirus Information

New Yorkers can slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in New York City by staying home as much as possible. Learn more about what you can do. <http://www.nyc.gov/coronavirus>

Healthy or sick, all New Yorkers need to stay home as much as possible. To stay up to date with the latest information, we encourage you to visit the [NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's site](#).

- Information is available in over 20 languages.
- For real-time updates in English, text COVID to 692-692.
- Text COVIDESP 692-692 for updates in Spanish.
- Please note: **Seeking or using medical treatment or preventive healthcare services related to COVID-19 will NOT be considered under the public charge rule, even if the services are Medicaid-funded.** Seek care without fear and if you need help getting medical care, call 311 and get connected to a doctor today.

ACCESS NYC

ACCESS NYC is an online public screening tool that you can use to determine the City, State, and Federal health and human service benefit programs for which you are potentially eligible to enroll. <http://access.nyc.gov>

Food Bank for New York City

1. **Find Food:** Find the help you need, where you need it. Search the map to find a soup kitchen, food pantry, senior center, SNAP enrollment site, or free Tax assistance site near you. If you're

an individual looking to donate a small amount of food, you can locate a food pantry or soup kitchen most convenient to you.

2. **COVID-19: Readiness Response:** Food Bank for New York City has been monitoring the development of COVID-19 and taking proactive steps to protect the New Yorkers who rely on us. As our city's leading hunger-relief organization, we must be prepared to provide emergency food to vulnerable New Yorkers who may be quarantined, along with those impacted by the economic downturn.

Mutual aid organizations facilitate exchange of resources and services for mutual benefit.

1. Article on COVID-19 mutual aid groups and how-to resources – [IGD article](#)
2. Guide on COVID-19 safety practices for mutual aid projects [web PDF download print PDF download](#)

NYC United Against Coronavirus: A group of volunteers are working on this project. You can reach us at NYCCoronavirus@gmail.com. They are on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and have a [Facebook Group](#) and [Facebook Page](#). If you have any questions or comments, any information or resources for this document, or would like to help with this effort, please email NYCCoronavirus@gmail.com.

1. **C-19 Help Squad- Give Help, Get Help**
2. **Mask/Glove/ Supply Donation to front line medical personnel- Info**
3. **Childcare timebank** – A childcare timebank that a central BK childcare coop has set up for COVID-19 childcare: <https://ittakesacity.timebanks.org/>
4. **Couriers and delivery – Corona Couriers** – A collective of cyclists willing to courier supplies to people in need for free, using low contact methods. Email coronacourier@protonmail.com
5. **Invisible Hands Delivery** – Grocery and supply delivery; delivery is free [Website](#), [Tweet](#)
6. **Donate blood** – [make an appointment](#)

7. **Organize your work place against Covid- Info**
8. **Healthcare provider surge staffing** with NYC HELP NOW – [signup form](#)
9. **Homebound seniors** – Volunteer to support home-bound seniors with Heights and Hills – [Google Form](#), [Tweet](#), [Website](#)
10. **NYC Mutual Aid Network** – [Google document](#) and [Formalized Volunteer Webform](#)
11. **New York Cares** COVID-19 relief volunteering – [Volunteer Form](#)
12. **Sylvia River Food Pantry (446 W 36th)- Info**
13. **The End Is Queer: NYC Mutual Aid** – [Facebook Group](#) / [Discord](#) (discord preferred) – City wide queer centered mutual aid
14. Resources for **undocumented New Yorkers** from New York State Youth Leadership Council – [Google Document](#).

Bronx

1. **Bronx Mutual Aid Network (FAM)** – [Google Document](#), [Tweet](#)
2. **NYC SID– Food Delivery** – [no longer taking requests: [request form](#)]

Brooklyn

1. **All Brooklyn** – Coronavirus Neighborhood Help [sign-up/request form](#)
2. **All Brooklyn** – Brooklyn Mutual Aid Network (FAM) – [Google Document](#), [Tweet](#)
3. **All Brooklyn** – service workers coalition groceries – [Info](#), [volunteer form](#)
4. **Bed Stuy Strong** – [Slack](#), BedStuyStrong2020@gmail.com
5. **Boerum Hill/Downtown BK** Neighborhood services and support – [Survey sign up](#)
6. **Bushwick Mutual Aid** – Coronavirus – [Facebook Group](#)
7. **Carroll Gardens Mutual Aid** – Coronavirus – [Facebook Group](#)
8. **Central and North Brooklyn** – [volunteer sign up and onboarding](#)
9. **Crown Heights Mutual Aid** – [Facebook Group](#)

10. **Ditmas Park/Flatbush/Prospect Park South** Coronavirus Neighborhood Help – [Google form](#)
11. **Kensington** Group for Mutual Aid (Coronavirus) – [Facebook Group](#)
12. **North Brooklyn** [Mutual Aid Sheet](#)
13. **Prospect Lefferts Gardens** – Prospect-Lefferts Gardens Neighbors [Facebook Group](#) – [Google Spreadsheet](#) for volunteers & at risk people
14. **Red Hook** Coronavirus Community Cooperative Committee – [Google Form](#)
15. **South Brooklyn Community** – COVID-19 Neighborhood Volunteers – [Google Spreadsheet](#)
16. **City Councilmember Brad Lander** – Do you want to find a way to help support neighbors? [Share your ideas and we'll follow up with ways to organize together digitally.](#)
17. **Brooklyn Mutual Aid (Cobble Hill, Williamsburg, Brooklyn Heights)**- [Info](#),

Manhattan

1. **East Village** Neighbors – [Facebook Group](#), EastVillageNeighbors@gmail.com, 917-994-1074
2. **Harlem** United Against Coronavirus – [Facebook Group](#) – [Google Spreadsheet](#)
3. **Manhattan** Mutual Aid Network (FAM) – [Google Document](#), [Tweet](#)
4. **UWS: Stephen Wise Towers & NYCHA organizing** – [Google form](#) or contact wisetowersmutualaid@gmail.com or call/text 929.277.9203

Queens

1. **Queens** Mutual Aid Network (FAM) – [Google Document](#), [Tweet](#)
2. **Astoria** Mutual Aid Network – If you have a non-emergency need and are based in Astoria, NY, please call or text 646-397-8383 or email astoriamutualaid@gmail.com and they will get you help. [Volunteer Form](#) for anyone who can help.

3. **Ridgewood Mutual Aid** – [Google Form](#)
4. **Rockaway Mutual Aid and Support Group** – [Facebook Group](#)

Staten Island

1. **Staten Island COVID-19 Volunteers**- [Google Form](#)
2. **Staten Island Mutual Aid Network (FAM)** – [Google Document](#), [Tweet](#)

Nassau County

1. **Nassau County DSA Covid-19 Mutual Aid** – [Google Form](#)

Relief Funds

Emergency relief funds to donate to or request from

1. **Cinema Worker Solidarity Fund** – [Gofundme](#), [Tweet](#)
2. **COVID-19 Relief Fund** – small cash grants for marginalized communities, workers who have lost income, families, immunosuppressed folx, and anyone else in need of food, resources, and supplies donate [here](#); request form coming soon
3. **Fund for Black, Brown, and Indegenious Artists**- [Info](#),
4. **Low-Income Artist/Freelancer Relief Fund** – donate via [Gofundme](#) [not taking any new requests as of March 16]
5. **NYC Small Businesses** – donate to support staff during Covid-19 – [Giant list here](#)
6. **Service/gig/freelance workers support** from Service2Service – give or request support via [Google Form](#)
7. **Service workers fund** from Service Workers Coalition – [Info](#), [volunteer form](#), Venmo @bksservicecoalition
8. **Sex Worker Relief Fund** – [Gofundme](#), [Tweet](#)
9. **Undocumented restaurant worker fund** – [Info](#), Venmo undocumentedworkersfund@gmail.com

10. Undocumented Youth Fund- [Info](#), [Donate](#)

Food and Food Insecurity

1. Food Bank for New York City

Find Food: Find the help you need, where you need it. Search the map to find a soup kitchen, food pantry, senior center, SNAP enrollment site, or free Tax assistance site near you. If you're an individual looking to donate a small amount of food, you can locate a food pantry or soup kitchen most convenient to you.

COVID-19: Readiness Response: Food Bank for New York City has been monitoring the development of COVID-19 and taking proactive steps to protect the New Yorkers who rely on us. As our city's leading hunger-relief organization, we must be prepared to provide emergency food to vulnerable New Yorkers who may be quarantined, along with those impacted by the economic downturn.

2. **Abolition Action Grocery Fund** – [Donate via Paypal](#), [Info via Tweet](#), [not taking any new requests: [request form](#)]
3. **Black Folks COVID-19 Fund** for funds and supplies from BYP 100 – [donate via PayPal](#), [request form](#)
4. **Black Trans Solidarity Fund** for groceries from TheOkraProject – [donate via Paypal](#), [request form](#)
5. **NYC Shut it Down Food Delivery** – Providing free home cooked meals and groceries to black & brown folks in BK, BX, Queens, Harlem. Donate on Venmo: @nycshutitdown, [not taking any new requests: [request form](#)]
6. **Food Bank NYC** – [Find the help that you need](#)
7. **Food Help NYC** – [Map](#)
8. **Soup Kitchen and Food Pantries** – [search by borough](#)
9. **To find out whether you qualify for SNAP (food stamps)** – [Info](#)
10. **Free Baby Formula** – WIC members can have baby formula delivered FREE to all New York City boroughs. Dial 718-405-9111

11. **Free Veggies for Restaurant Workers** – Local Roots CSA is giving away free vegetables to restaurant workers that are without work and money right now:

info@localroots.nyc

12. **Food Pantries and community kitchens** - Food pantries provide groceries you can cook at home and community kitchens provide hot meals. If you need food immediately, find locations near you by using the [NYC Food Map](#).

13. **Free meals for all NYC Children** - The NYC DOE provides three free meals daily. All three meals can be picked up at the same time from 7:30am-1:30pm. Please refer to this [pick up location map](#). No registration, ID, or documentation is required. [Nutritional information](#) is available.

14. **Home-delivered meals** - For people age 60 and older, the [NYC Department for the Aging](#) provides access to home-delivered meals. A case manager/social worker can visit your home to provide in-home care, such as assistance with household chores, personal care, and referrals to additional resources.

Housing

As of Monday March 16, eviction proceedings and pending orders will be suspended statewide until further notice. Housing court functions such as landlord lockouts, repair orders, and serious code violations will continue.

As of Thursday March 19, New York has implemented a 90-day foreclosure moratorium and mortgage relief period for owners who can demonstrate they are not able to make timely payments due to the impact of the virus.

1. **Tenants Rights Hotline** by Met Council – 212-979-0611 (ingles y espanol) or more [info](#)
2. **Report attempted evictions** – Anyone with knowledge of City marshals attempting to execute on warrants of eviction can report this activity by calling DOI’s Bureau of City Marshals at (212) 825-5953.
3. **Support for eviction prevention:** [Bronx Works](#), [Catholic Charities](#) (helps regardless of denomination), [Coalition for the Homeless](#)

Utilities

As of Friday March 13, New York utilities have volunteered to suspend utility shut-offs for power, heat and water for all customers.

Free WiFi at home:

1. Comcast – offering Essentials internet service designed for low-income families free for 60 days for new qualifying customers. Visit <https://www.internetessentials.com/> for more information. Call 1-855-8-INTERNET for set up.
2. Spectrum – households with K-12 students can get free Spectrum Wifi for 60 days (including free installation for new customers). Call 1-844-488-8395 for set up.

Wifi via smartphone:

1. Metro PCS, T-Mobile, Sprint, AT&T and Comcast are all lifting their unlimited data caps for cell phone subscribers for at least 60 days. Contact your cellphone provider for more information.
2. MetroPCS will allow you to add a free 10GB of mobile hotspot per month by adding an add on service available in the MyMetro app, [MyAccount](#) or by calling Care at 611.
3. T-Mobile and Metro by T-Mobile are providing customers an additional 20GB of mobile hotspot/tethering service for the next 60 days coming soon.

Mental Health Support

1. **Mental Health Hotline/Chat- [Info](#)**
2. **Mental Health Chat For Undocumented People- [Instagram Live Chat](#)**
3. **Trans Lifeline- [Info](#), [Donate](#)**

4. **Free, remote peer counseling** – Open to anyone in emotional or psychiatric distress. Text (929) 277-8291 to schedule a phone or zoom session. Donate @LouisFelix on venmo.
5. **Mental Health for Front Line Workers/COVID Workers – info, offer support/volunteer**

Fun & Entertainment

1. **Virtual Live DJ sets & related DJ discussions – Nowadays**– every night, 8pm to Midnight. Donation-based (as low as \$5/ month) for access to the full library – to help keep the NYC venue alive.
2. **Unemployed NYC musicians offering lessons**

NYC/NY State Information

1. **NYC and Mayor Bill de Blasio** – <http://nyc.gov/coronavirus> or text COVID to 692692.
2. Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): **What You Need to Know**
3. **NY State and Governor Andrew Cuomo** – <https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>
4. **NYC Department of Health** – **2019 Novel Coronavirus**
5. **Unemployment- Application, Assistance**
6. **Small Businesses- Info**
7. **NYC K-12 Schools** – **Coronavirus update** *NYC schools are closed from Monday March 16 through April 20 at minimum*
8. **CUNY** – **Coronavirus Update**

General COVID-19

1. Coronavirus Resource Kit – <http://bit.ly/CoronavirusResourceKit>
2. Covid-19 Mutual Aid & Advocacy Resources – **Google Document**

3. Coronavirus Tech Handbook: a crowdsourced resource for technologists building things related to the coronavirus outbreak – [Google Document](#)
4. NYC DSA [COVID-19 Resource Guide](#)Tech:NYC [COVID-19 Resource Guide](#)
5. Information for medical professionals (very detailed): [Emcrit.org](#).
6. COVID-19 Freelance Artist Resources [link](#)

Scientific Information

1. Ask a Scientist COVID-19 Questions, this is still in development so keep on checking back as it improves but it is live now – <https://covid19.fas.org/l/en>
2. Johns Hopkins University's global tracking of SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 – <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>
3. The COVID Tracking Project compiled, comprehensive testing data – <https://covidtracking.com/>
4. COVID-19 in the US and Canada Tracking document, updated daily with local and regional and national data – <https://coronavirus.1point3acres.com/en>
5. New York Times Article on SARS-CoV-2 biology with illustrations – <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/03/11/science/how-coronavirus-hijacks-your-cells.html>
6. Coronavirus Misinformation Tracking Center – <https://www.newsguardtech.com/coronavirus-misinformation-tracking-center/>

Resources for Workers & Small Businesses:

You have the right to use safe and sick leave to care for yourself or anyone you consider family.

- For more information visit the [Department of Consumer and Worker Protection's website](#) for information available in over 20 languages.

- Workers in NYC are covered by many [labor and employment laws](#), regardless of immigration status.

Relief is available for small businesses and employees impacted by COVID-19:

- Businesses with fewer than 100 employees, who have seen sales decrease by 25% or more, will be eligible for [NYC Small Business Continuity Fund](#), which will provide zero interest loans of up to \$75,000 to help mitigate losses in profit.
- The [Employee Retention Grant Program](#) is available to NYC businesses with one to four employees that can demonstrate at least a 25% decrease in revenue as a result of COVID-19. Eligible businesses will receive a grant covering up to 40% of their payroll for two months. Businesses can access up to \$27,000.

Resources for Reporting Harassment or Discrimination:

Hate and discrimination against anyone on the basis of their race, national origin, or other status is not tolerated in New York City. The [New York City Commission on Human Rights](#), Mayor's Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, and NYPD are monitoring and responding to reported hate and bias incidents resulting from fear and stigma related to COVID-19.

- Call 311 to report harassment or discrimination.
- Call 911 if you are the victim of a hate crime or witness what you believe to be a hate crime. NYPD officers will not ask about the immigration status of anyone seeking help and language assistance is available.

Other resources:

Resources from the NYC Office of Emergency Management on the below topics can be found [here](#)

- Employment resources
- Food assistance
- Health & medical assistance
- Financial assistance
- Rent arrears and public assistance
- Emotional support & Spiritual care
- Access to free internet at home
- Remote learning devices
- Other assistance

