



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD 9
MANHATTAN

Morningside Heights
Manhattanville
Hamilton Heights

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ADVISORY NOTICE RE: Manhattan Community Board 9 Activities During the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak:

Due to the state of emergency declared by the Governor and the Mayor of New York to deal with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Manhattan Community Board 9 offices will be operating remotely until further notice. **The office at 16-18 Old Broadway will be closed until further notice.** The District Manager and office staff can be reached by phone at (212) 864-6200 or by email at info@cb9m.org.

Additionally, no CB9 committee meetings, general board meetings, or public hearings will be held in-person. CB9 is working to set up virtual meetings that will permit both CB9 members and the public to participate in discussions and debates. Please monitor the CB9 website at www.cb9m.org and our email listserv for further information.

The Community Board will also be working to distribute information about the City's response to COVID-19 and how individuals and businesses can best cope with the situation and prevent the further transmission of the virus. Please continue to monitor the CB9 website and our email listserv for this information.

Stay safe,

Barry Weinberg

Chair

Manhattan Community Board 9

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING LINKS TO VITAL INFORMATION:

The Latest on Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment

Sources of information on prevention, diagnosis and treatment relating to the Coronavirus and Covid-19 infections can be found at the following websites (which appear to be updated frequently), among many others:

From New York City:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/coronavirus.page>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

From New York State:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

From the Centers for Disease Control:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Findex.html

**To sign up for the New York City text notification system relating to Covid-19, you may:
Text “COVID” to 692-692.**

Public Schools

New York City Public Schools will close starting Monday, March 16th. As of this writing, the plan is for schools to remain closed until the end of the previously scheduled Spring Recess (Monday, April 20th). Public school students will engage in one or more forms of remote learning, and teachers will use the time for, among other things, professional development. Certain facilities will be made available to the children of certain health care workers, first responders and others during the period of closure.

For the latest details and information, please consult the Department of Education website:
<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/alerts/nyc-public-schools-will-close-starting-monday-march-16-2020>

Additional information for public school families is available at:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/health-and-wellness/coronavirus-update>

Charter, Private and Religious Schools

As of this writing, most charter, private, independent and religious schools serving students in CB9's District have been or will be closed leading in to their Spring Break, which for all but charter schools are on a different timetable than that observed by most public schools. Information about charter, private, independent and religious school closures is available from one or more of the following sources:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/nyregion/school-closings-ny-nj.html>

<https://patch.com/new-york/new-york-city/nyc-schools-closed-coronavirus>

<https://abc7ny.com/health/live-mayor-de-blasio-to-make-an-announcement-regarding-nyc-schools-/5989875/>

<https://catholicschoolsnyc.org/advocacy-services/corona-virus/>

Restaurants, Bars, Clubs, Movie Theaters and Entertainment Venues

By order of the Mayor, effective as of March 17 at 9 AM: To prevent the further spread of COVID-19, all bars, restaurants, and cafes are limited to take-out and delivery.

All nightclubs, movie theaters, and entertainment venues must close.

It appears that the only way to patronize local eateries is through take-out/delivery, and we encourage you to check directly with the restaurants, cafes and the like as to their hours, offerings and availability. Doubtless they will welcome continued business.

As you know, virtually all organized sports at the professional and college levels have either cancelled or indefinitely suspended their operations.

Other Large Scale Gatherings – Cancellations and Social-Distancing

As you doubtless have already heard, Governor Cuomo has directed that events at which more than 500 people are expected to gather are to be canceled, and there are directed restrictions on gatherings of fewer than 500 people to require space between participants.

The Governor's directions can be found at:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/during-novel-coronavirus-briefing-governor-cuomo-announces-new-mass-gatherings-regulations>

Social Distance: Some helpful guidance on how to maintain appropriate social-distance in public spaces can be found at:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2020/03/coronavirus-what-does-social-distancing-mean/607927/>

A Word About Small Businesses

We at MCB9 do not presume to question or contradict the advice of experts on the best practices in the current environment, and recognize that not all of our residents have the same vulnerabilities to this pandemic.

Without retreating from that position, we are also keenly concerned for our small businesses in our neighborhoods, and for the workers at our local businesses, who will be affected by the economic consequences of the responses to the outbreak.

Shop Locally When Possible. To the extent safe and consistent with applicable directions, including without limitation the Governor's direction on capacity at public gatherings, we encourage everyone, now more than ever, to shop locally and consider the impact of even small purchases on the stores in our community. While it may be convenient to order from online services for groceries and other goods, if a safe way to shop our local stores is an alternative, we hope you will consider it. We already have a scourge of empty storefronts, and hope not to add to that condition.