

June, 2020 District Manager's Report

Agency Reports:

Mayor's Office Reported:

Mayor de Blasio recently announced the Test & Trace Corps' "Take Care Initiative," the City's program to help all COVID positive New Yorkers safely separate to prevent the spread of the virus. The City will provide free hotel rooms with wraparound services for New Yorkers who are unable to safely separate in their own homes and support those who are separating at home with designated Resource Navigators.

"Helping New Yorkers safely separate is, along with testing and tracing, the key to safely reopening our city," said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. "Separating will help keep you and your loved ones safe—but it isn't always easy. From providing free hotel rooms to delivering meals, your City is here to bridge the gap, and has your back each and every step of the way as you recover."

Take Care

To help all New Yorkers 'safely separate' at home and monitor their health status, the Test & Trace Corps tracers will check-in via daily calls, text messages, and conduct in-person visits as necessary. These calls and texts will allow the monitors to gauge the progress of patients, ensure proper compliance with separation protocol, and connect patients to more supportive services as necessary.

Through partnerships with 15 community-based organizations across the city, Resource Navigators will help New Yorkers overcome logistical issues they may encounter while safely separating in their homes, such as access to basic services like food, medicine, and laundry. Two hundred Resource Navigators will be on the ground next week in communities across the city, with the intention to expand the program and hire additional navigators in the following weeks.

For any person who is unable to safely separate in their own home, the City will offer "Take Care Hotels" free of charge. Any doctor, nurse, or physician's assistants across the city can email CommCareCP@nychhc.org to refer a patient to a room. If you don't have a doctor, any symptomatic New Yorker can call [844-692-4692](tel:844-692-4692), the City's COVID hotline and ask for the COVID Hotel Program. 1,200 rooms are available now, with the goal to expand the number of rooms to 3,000 by late summer.

Case Monitors and Investigators

Over 1,700 tracers have been hired to joined the Test & Trace Corp, surpassing the City's goal to hire 1,000 tracers by June 1, with 700 hired from neighborhoods hardest hit by the virus. To ensure the Corps can meet the needs of New Yorkers from all backgrounds, 40 distinct languages are also spoken across the Corps.

New Testing Site

An additional 16 community testing sites will open through a partnership with AdvantageCare Physicians on June 1st. Appointments are encouraged, and those who are interested should

call [866-749-2660](tel:866-749-2660) to make theirs today. Sites will be located across the five boroughs, with 3 sites in Brooklyn, 45 in Queens, 5 in the Bronx, and 1 on Staten Island.

An additional community testing site will also open at the Sorrento Recreation Center in West Queens.

The following sites will open the week of June 1st:

Queens

Beach 39th Street Leavitt Field (Parking Lot)
1716 Bleecker Street

Bronx

1302 Edward L Grant Highway
921, East 228th Street

Week of June 8:

Brooklyn

4002 Fort Hamilton Parkway
6315 14th Avenue

Week of June 15:

Staten Island, Greenbelt Recreation Center

Week of June 22:

Queens, Jacob Riis Settlement House

Week of June 29:

Manhattan, Manhattan Ville Health Center
Bronx 4006 3rd Avenue

Air Conditioner Distribution: The heat can be dangerous. To keep the most vulnerable New Yorkers safe, the City will provide over 74,000 air conditioners to all low-income seniors and NYCHA residents, so staying home is safe and comfortable during the Summer months.

Tablets for Seniors: Thousands of senior New Yorkers will receive free tablets equipped with internet service to better connect with loved ones during the novel coronavirus pandemic.

The Mayor's Office plans to distribute the devices to 10,000 senior residents living in buildings operated by the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), starting with locations in Brownsville, East New York, Mott Haven, Red Hook, Bushwick and Coney Island. Roughly 10,000 apartments in NYCHA's network are designated senior residences.

It was stated a \$5 million investment aimed to reduce isolation among older New Yorkers without access to virtual communication methods. Individuals older than 65 are at especially high risk of developing severe symptoms and health complications from COVID-19. According

to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, patients belonging to that age bracket account for [80 percent of coronavirus deaths](#).

DOT Reported:

Citi Bike Program - currently operating in CB9 (northern portion up to 155th Street), CB10, CB11, CB12. Next focus began in CB12 on June 1st, going from 155th Street – 184th Street for this year; will finish CB12 next year.

- Open Streets Program – still ongoing. Any organizations & public can complete the online application for suggested streets to have closed off. Criteria is still the same; locations will be considered via online applications; eligible locations should be submitted for review. He's not aware of a deadline for submitting applications. Visit the NYC DOT website for more info.;
- Things are quiet at DOT, and has been challenging for the past couple of months. Work still continues. NYC will start reopening on June 8th. CB9 will be updated on any projects and/or info that comes in. Any other details or plans will be communicated to the US&T Committee.

Alternate Side Parking Regulation suspensions will be extended through Monday, June 21, 2020. The City may extend the suspension based on street cleanliness and workforce availability. Any New Yorker under isolation who has received a ticket can appeal to the Department of Finance and should provide medical documentation or testimony, which will be taken into consideration when their case is reviewed.

Payment at parking meters will remain in effect throughout the City.

DFTA Reported:

TABLETS FOR SENIORS

Tablet Initiative:

Please share the following information with seniors that were unable to respond to the robocalls for tablets.

To register they can call (Monday - Friday 9:30am to 4:30pm):

929-505-6208
929-237-3069

or e-mail: nychafamilypartnerships@nycha.nyc.gov Eligibility:

Seniors (62 years+) who live alone or with another senior only. Information on Tablets:

The tablet comes with 12 months of free internet service and no obligation to continue service after that time. The senior keeps the device regardless. Older Adults Technology Services is contracted with the City to provide education, training, and support for seniors who would like to learn how to use their tablets, access services and resources, and engage in community activities

online. Seniors are shipped tablets via UPS to their homes. There is not a designation per borough.

DSNY Reported:

- The Mayoral Score Card has been postponed due to COVID-19, therefore, I have not received any updated scores;
- Alternate Side Parking is still suspended through Sunday, June, 21, 2020;
- Residents and businesses are still responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of their sidewalks and curb lines during their respective Routing Times;
- The end date for the Council Member sponsored cleaning truck is Saturday, 6/27/20. This truck was scheduled on Mondays and Saturdays overnight, on the Midnight to 8 a.m. shift;
- The day line hours for The Department of Sanitation is still 5 a.m. to 1 p.m.;
- Two new Citi Bike locations have been placed within the District: 1) West side of 12th Avenue, between W. 131st Street to W. 130th Street and 2) East side of Convent Avenue, between W. 133rd Street and W. 135th Street;
- All officers monitor the W. 125th Street corridor; Amsterdam Avenue, Broadway and 12th Avenue. Summonses are issued for violations observed whenever possible.

Graffiti Free NYC Service Change related to COVID-19 Budget Cuts. COVID-19 is having a significant impact on the City's economy and finances. To ensure the City can continue to devote resources to essential safety, health, shelter, and food security needs, the City has suspended the Graffiti Free NYC program indefinitely. As a result, 311 has suspended processing of graffiti removal service requests.

George Bruce Library Reported:

Free Online Tutoring for Students - Through the New York Public Library, students can receive one-on-one free online homework help from one-on-one tutors, daily from 2–11 PM. Tutors are available in English and Spanish, from early elementary through high school grades, in core subject areas. Video content and other resources are also available 24 hours a day. Families will need a New York Library card to access this service, and can apply for a card <https://www.nypl.org/books-music-movies/ebookcentral/simplye>.

NYPL President Tony Marx wrote an [editorial](#) in the New York Times entitled “Libraries Must Change,” where he outlined the library’s expanded digital services and virtual presence during the current public health crisis. In the piece, he noted the role digital services will continue to play through re-opening and recovery and that *“the digital public library is a piece of necessary public infrastructure that must be built with the same care, collaboration, and adherence to values — including privacy — that we have used to build and run our branches.”* Since the pandemic began, the library has seen an 864 percent increase in digital library card sign-ups in their e-reader app, SimplyE and a 236 percent increase in views of our educational resources

NYPL, Brooklyn, and Queens library systems are targeting July to begin reopening our physical locations. Working with our partners in government and safety experts, and putting the health and safety of patrons and staff first, The New York Public Library is planning to:

- **Open 8 branches to start and learning from those branches about what best practices work**
- **These branches will initially offer grab-and-go services. Patrons will be able to place holds from home and pick items up and return them at the open locations. The staff and public will be required to wear face coverings, and maintain appropriate physical distance; we will also employ special cleaning protocols to lower the risk of COVID-19**
- **As NYPL evaluate developing circumstances, additional branches will be added, and when safe, we will open more branches for increased on-site use (computer use and browsing, for example)**
- **At NYPL research centers (where most materials cannot be checked out), NYPL will focus on expanded and enhanced digital delivery of on-site materials until they can, in a later phase, welcome the public**
- **NYPL will evaluate circumstances and cautiously begin reinstating further services as we can ensure safety (we are also prepared to return to a previous stage if necessary)**
- **Until NYPL reopens, they will continue to expand our digital services noted below; please continue to check for update on their website as well**

Summer Reading 2020:

- **New York Public Library (NYPL) launched its 2020 Summer Reading program, *Quest for Adventure*. Due to the closure of our locations, the program will primarily be offered virtually, allowing participants to track their reading progress online, complete fun at-home activities, attend exciting virtual events, and find fantastic book recommendations to stay engaged all summer long. Parents, caregivers, educators, and participants can keep up with programming components on our Summer Reading or by signing up for [NYPL's Kids Newsletter](#)**
- **In addition to these digital offerings, NYPL are also coordinating the delivery of Summer Reading book kits to students in need across our communities in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island for later this month and early July. The Library is looking for partners to brainstorm locations for distribution. If you are interested in working with them to identify places within our district that can help get these**

- **reading materials to the kids who need them most, please contact Amr Kotb, amrkotb@nypl.org of the NYPL Government and Community Affairs team**

Resources on Race:

Given recent developments and civil strife across our city and the country at large, NYPL is re-affirming their mission to fight ignorance and provide New Yorkers with the tools they need to foster a better understanding of each other across racial and all other divides. NYPL knows that New Yorkers are turning to their collections to grapple with history and how we got here: of the e-books with the highest percentage increase in holds since May 26, the top 10 all focus on issues of race. In addition, the Library is sharing a [guide to e-resources](#) that can help explore Black heritage, and the Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture has put together a Black Liberation Reading List:

https://www.nypl.org/blog/2020/06/03/schomburg-center-black-liberation-reading-list?utm_source=eNewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=NYPLUpdate_20200604_TonyMarxReopening&utm_campaign=NYPLUpdate_TonyMarx

Make an appointment for Financial Counseling:

- **In this financially difficult time, NYPL counselors remain available to speak about the current financial situation, including general money management, budgeting, saving, banking, retirement planning, and more, make an appointment at:**
<https://www.nypl.org/events/programs/2020/06/11/financial-counseling>;
- **Online Class: Getting More out of Google**
 - On Thursday June 11th at 5pm, go beyond basic search and explore the various ways to find information with Google. Learn about Advanced Search, Image Search, and much more at:
<https://www.nypl.org/events/programs/2020/06/11/online-google-series-getting-more-out-google>;
- **Webinar: Strategies for Enhancing your Job Search Online**
 - On Friday June 12th at 12noon, join this interactive workshop led by NYPL Career Coach Louisa Tatum, where you will get tips on how to enhance the online job application process. The session will explore alternative job sites, highlighting your skills on your resume, and addressing challenging job application questions, among other techniques at:
<https://www.nypl.org/events/programs/2020/06/12/webinar-strategies-enhancing-job-search-online>;
- **"Get Lit" Pick for June: *The Glass Hotel***

- **Thousands of New Yorkers participated in the latest installment of our virtual book club, “Get Lit With All of It” held in partnership with WNYC. Don't miss your chance to join for this month's pick as we read *The Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John Mandel. The special livestream discussion and audience Q&A between St. John Mandel and WNYC host, Alison Stewart will be on Tuesday June 30th at 7pm; you can get more info and watch previous book talks at:**
https://www.nypl.org/virtualbookclub?utm_source=eNewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=NYPLConnect_20200528&utm_campaign=NYPLConnect

- **NYPL TechConnect is online**
 - NYPL's TechConnect program, which helps people of all ages develop confidence in their computer skills and grow more comfortable in today's digital world, is now offering online courses; check out upcoming offerings at <https://www.nypl.org/tech-connect>;

- **Resources for College and Early Career**
 - Visit NYPL's [College and Careers Pathways Remote Learning Page](#) to get up to date virtual resources for your college and career planning and sign up for a [virtual counseling session](#) with a College and Career Pathways librarian to get assistance tailored to your needs.

Board of Elections Reported:

All New Yorkers will be allowed to cast absentee ballots in the June 23 primary elections due to the Corona Virus crisis registration can be done at <https://nycabsentee.com/absentee?emci=e01f1b46-4694-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&emdi=22381ae6-5d95-ea11-86e9-00155d03b5dd&ceid=11924437>

HRA Reported:

Your Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits can now be used to shop [online](#) for fresh produce and groceries. Participating online stores now accept SNAP benefits for online orders and will deliver to you.

Use your EBT card to shop securely for fresh produce and groceries at these participating stores in the New York City area:

- [Amazon](#)
- [ShopRite](#)

➤ [Walmart](#)

Note: SNAP benefits cannot be used to pay delivery fees. Be sure to confirm an online store delivers to your home address.

All in-person appointments have been cancelled. NO NEGATIVE CASE ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN. The following listed below can be done without coming to an HRA Center. Go online to nyc.gov/accesshra, or download the ACCESS HRA mobile app, and log in or create an account.

Burial Assistance Program - To address the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the following emergency rule was issued:

- Increasing the burial allowance from \$900 to \$1,700 and increasing the cap on burial costs from \$1,700 to \$3,400
- Extending the timeframe for when you can apply to 120 days from the date of the individual's death
- Please access and share the application for burial assistance at https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/hra/downloads/pdf/benefits/burial_claim_app_en.pdf

Access to Food - All New Yorkers can access the food they need. Go to nyc.gov/GetFood for resources:

To find a meal hub location near you: Go to schools.nyc.gov. Text "FOOD" or "COMIDA" to 877-877. View this update in multiple languages @ <https://twitter.com/NYCImmigrants/status/1246096131680956417>

NYC Food Delivery Assistance

- NYC Food Delivery Assistance Resources <https://cv19engagementportal.cityofnewyork.us/#/display/5e7555117ad6750216160409>
- If you cannot leave your home to get food, do not have anyone who can bring you food, and you are not able to use private delivery options, you may be eligible to get meals delivered directly to your home.
- Go to NYC.gov/GetFood or call 311 and say "Get Food" for information.

Resources for Businesses and Nonprofits

Relief for Businesses and Nonprofits: the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program <https://access.nyc.gov/sba-loan-announcement/>

- The Paycheck Protection Program offers two-year loans at 1% interest that you may not have to pay back if the money is used for payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent, and utility payments;

- Loan is designed for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll
- Businesses and nonprofits with 500 or fewer employees are eligible to apply
- View an FAQ on the Paycheck Protection Program in multiple languages @ <https://access.nyc.gov/sba-loan-announcement/>

DOHMH Reported:

This summer, the risk of COVID-19 transmission must be balanced against the risk of heat-related illness. With COVID-19 physical distancing measures, we are recommending that people — especially those most at risk of COVID-19 complications and heat-related illness — stay home as much as possible. However, during hot weather, staying in homes without air conditioning can increase risk for heat-related death or illness. You can help people mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission and the risk of heat-related illness by reminding them of the health risks of extreme heat (heat waves) and encouraging them to plan how to find relief from the heat.

- For more information, read this Heat Alert at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/han/alert/2020/covid-19-heat-illness-prevention.pdf>

Struggling with alcohol or drugs?

- Support is available. Contact NYC Well, a confidential 24/7 helpline: nyc.gov/nycwell.

Relief for survivors of domestic violence

- The Mayor's office is partnering with providers to offer “micro-grants” directly to survivors. If you have friends or family who need resources, please share the [NYC HOPE](#) directory and the [Resources for Survivors During COVID-19](#). The Mayor’s Fund is continuing to pursue additional funds – anyone can contribute: [COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Cash Food Benefits for NYC Public School Families

- The State’s Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance has announced additional food assistance of more than \$880 million to help New Yorkers with children who previously received free and reduced-price meals at school.
- The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program will provide eligible households with a total of about \$420 per child, with school buildings closed for the remainder of the school year due to the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Benefit Resources for Food, Money, Housing, Work and More

- If you've been affected by COVID-19. Find out about benefits you or your family may be eligible for regardless of immigration status and even if you're already receiving benefits or have a job.

Benefits for Unemployment

- If you lost your job and it was not your fault, you might be able to get Unemployment Insurance (UI) payments. People approved for UI are eligible for larger payments and an additional 13 weeks for COVID-19-related purposes.

State Senator Robert Jackson's Office Reported:

Senator Robert Jackson along with other elected officials lead a 5-mile March and Rally that began in Marble Hill and ended in Riverbank State Park on Sunday June 7th to repeal 50-a.

The very next day the Senate and Assembly met with the following results:

- * State lawmakers voted to repeal a 40-year-old statute shielding the release of police disciplinary records – the most significant measure included in a 10-bill criminal justice reform package presented in Albany this week, [the Times Union reports](#).
- * In an almost completely unanimous vote in both houses, state lawmakers also approved a bill requiring the New York State Police to wear body cameras – it is the largest state law enforcement agency still not equipped with body cameras or dashboard cameras, [State of Politics reports](#).
- * Both chambers of the state Legislature voted this week to explicitly prohibit law enforcement officers from racially and ethnically profiling individuals – but the bill won't head to the governor's desk after the houses split over the specifics of the bill, [the Times Union reports](#).
- * After years of opposition, top New York City Police Department brass opened the door to support a bill officially banning police use of a chokehold at a virtual City Council hearing, saying it would back the bill with revisions, [NY1 reports](#).

IMPORTANT LINKS:

- Mayor's Office is hiring 2,500 contact tracers in June. Learn how to apply at <http://nyc.gov/traceteam>;
- Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON) – Summer Page <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/neon/programs/neon-summer.page>
- See resources at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/businesses/businesses-and-nonprofits.page>;

- **Expanded anti-body testing** You can make an appointment at <https://nychealthandhospitals.org>;
- **Jobs:** Temporary opportunities available: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/careers/find-a-job.page>.
- **NYC-DHMH recently launched a new data page on their website.** It has much more information, including more information on the zip code level is available: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page>

Have a Safe and Joyous Summer!!!

Respectfully Submitted by,

Eutha Prince
District Manager
6/18/20