

District Manager's Report March, 2021

FDNY Reported: Reminder – Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 14th at 2:00 a.m. FDNY reminds everyone to move their clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday and to change the batteries on all Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors. See FDNY Fire Safety Education flyer announcing events taking place March 8 – 13. You can register for FREE Smoke Alarm Installation at one of the events listed on Flyer <https://www.fdnymuseum.org/>

DOHMH Reported COVID-19 Vaccination Updates: New York State has now expanded its COVID-19 vaccine eligibility criteria to include workers at regional food banks, food pantries, and permitted home-delivered meal programs, as well as workers in permitted soup kitchen and congregate meal programs. Public-facing hotel workers are also now eligible. For more information, including the latest information on the State's vaccine eligibility criteria, visit [nyc.gov/covid19vaccine](https://www.nyc.gov/covid19vaccine).

As recently announced, two borough-specific vaccination sites have opened at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn and York College in Queens. These sites are now open to any eligible resident of Brooklyn (Medgar Evers) or Queens (York), respectively. Appointments can be scheduled at these two locations by visiting am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov or by calling 1-833-697-4829.

The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has now granted emergency authorization for the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen single dose coronavirus vaccine in the United State for adults 18 and older. In clinical trials, this vaccine prevented death and hospitalizations. More information can be found at the FDA's [website](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/medical-products).

As a reminder, appointments are required at all locations in order to be vaccinated. Please visit the NYC COVID-19 Vaccine Finder at [nyc.gov/vac4nyc](https://www.nyc.gov/vac4nyc) or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692) for more information, to find a vaccine hub near you, or to schedule an appointment. Additional sites are coming online every day, so please continue to check the Vaccine Finder site often.

Yankee Stadium and CitiField remain open as vaccine sites serving eligible residents of the Bronx and Queens, respectively. Individuals are required to bring proof of residency to their appointments. A dedicated vaccine site only for Staten Island residents opened on Friday, February 19 at the Empire Outlets. This site will be open 7 days a week from 8am to 5pm.

Vaccination Resources for Seniors

New Yorkers age 65+ who make a vaccination appointment at a City-operated site will be asked if they need transportation to get to and from their appointment. Seniors will be directed to options including Access-a-Ride, ambulette services, and cab service via Curb.

The NYC **vaccine finder** now shows when Duane Reade + Walgreens pharmacies have first dose appointments available. Pharmacies are currently only vaccinating New Yorkers who are 65 and over.

Assistance for New Yorkers Who Test Positive for COVID

NYC Health & Hospitals' [Test & Trace Corps](#) is providing special services for New Yorkers who test positive and their close contacts:

- “Take Care” packages which include enough personal protective equipment for a household of three to quarantine for 10-14 days. [Learn more here](#).
- A free hotel room for up to 14 days if quarantining at home is impossible. [Click here](#) to learn more or call (212) 268-4319 to book a room.
- Free dog walking and other pet drop-in services to ensure New Yorkers can remain safely separated in a hotel or at home. [Learn more here](#).

Free COVID-19 Testing Sites

Free testing continues to be available throughout the five boroughs. As a reminder, getting tested is safe, confidential, and free. All New Yorkers should get tested, even those who do not have symptoms or are unsure if they were exposed to COVID-19. Getting frequent tests should be every New Yorker's goal. Don't stop at just one test. A schedule of mobile testing locations throughout the City as well as detailed information on locations and types of testing offered at regular testing sites (including rapid testing and antibody tests) can be found [here](#). Locations of testing sites can also be accessed by texting “COVID TEST” to 855-48. These are no cost testing sites open to all New Yorkers.

The Test-and-Trace corps offers the [COVID 19 Wait Times Dashboard](#). This dashboard displays estimated wait times for NYC Health + Hospitals COVID-19 testing locations. This wait time information is updated by site staff every two hours.

DOT Reported: Division of Bridges began the repair of the parapet wall supporting the Riverside Drive West sidewalk this work has been completed; the pedestrian walkway connecting W. 158th St. to W.160th St. has been reopened.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Reported: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members receive intensive training in emergency preparedness, fire safety, light search and rescue, disaster medical operations, and more. Anyone 18+ can join NYC CERT but to be considered for this training, applicants must attend an orientation session. To learn more and apply, please register for FREE Virtual CERT Training. Members receive intensive training in emergency preparedness, fire safety, light search and rescue, disaster medical operations, and more. Anyone 18+ can join NYC CERT but to be considered for this training, applicants must attend an orientation session. To learn more at [visit: http://www.certvolunteer.nyc/](http://www.certvolunteer.nyc/).

ConEdison Reported: Scammers looking to rip off customers have begun asking them to make payments by Cash App and Zelle. Con Edison does not support these platforms for payment. Any customer who gets a request to pay a Con Edison bill by Cas App or Zelle should beware that the person making the request is a scammer who will steal the money.

ConEdison reiterated they do not accept payment by pre-paid debit cards, MoneyGram or similar transfers. The company does not call customers and demand immediate payment. Further, Con Edison has stopped turning off service for non-payment during the health emergency.

Never arrange payment or divulge account or personal information including debit or credit card information, over the phone unless you are certain you are speaking to ConEdison. If you are unsure please call 1-800-75-CONED to check.

If someone comes to your home or business claiming to be from ConEdison, as for identification. If you are still unsure, call 1-800-75-CONED.

Customers should also be aware of these scammer tactics:

- A scammer may call a business or residential customer and say a computer glitch prevented the customer's payments from being recorded. These scammers then urge the customer to buy a pre-paid card;
- Someone calls and says the customer owes ConEdison a deposit for a smart meter. The caller tells the customer to make an immediate payment by Bitcoin. This scam usually targets businesses;
- ConEdison does not require deposits for smart meters or accept payment by Bitcoin;
- Some impostors who knock on a residential customer's door try to talk their way inside to steal or even commit an assault;

Visit ConEdison's website to learn more on avoiding scams and approved options for bill payment.

George Bruce Library Reported: NYPL is extending their suspension of overdue fines for any physical material currently checked out. Fines will not accrue until at least June 30, 2021. Additionally, patrons with library cards set to expire will not have to renew their card until at least June 30, 2021.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS @ GEORGE BRUCE

For Adults:

[Book Discussion: Virtual Open Book Hour](#)

Wednesday, March 10, 12:30 pm

Join staff from George Bruce for a lively book discussion... All formats welcome, including e-books and audiobooks. To register, go to the link above.

[Online Portrait Drawing Class](#)

Wednesday, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 6:00pm

Explore your artistic potential by learning how to draw a PORTRAIT; a series of online workshops based on classical atelier drawing. To register, go to the link above.
(REGISTRATION IS ALREADY FULL)

For Teens:

[Teen Open Book Discussion](#)

Thursday March 25 at 4pm.

Please join us for a teen open book discussion with George Bruce Library staff. It's not about a specific book. Bring whatever you are reading. Discussion will be held via Google Meet. To register, go to the link above.

[Help with Library Resources for Teens](#)

Tuesdays , March 9, 16, 23, 30 at 4 pm

[March 9](#)

[March 16](#)

[March 23](#)

[March 30](#)

Need help using NYPL databases for your homework? Make an appointment to speak with a YA librarian from the George Bruce Branch on Google Meet. Pre-registration is required. You will need a valid library card and PIN. Registration is open to teens 13-18 years old. All meetings will be held using Google Meet. To register, go to the links above **for each specific date in March.**

[Virtual Teen Advisory Group](#)

Friday, March 26 at 4pm

Join us for a virtual Teen Advisory Group with George Bruce Library staff. Register to take part in our online session to discuss new ideas for online programs, recommend books for social media, and talk about types of books teens read now and what books and programs the library should promote. We would like to hear from you.

Discussion will be held via Google Meet. To register, go to the link above.

For Children:

[Children's Online Open Book Discussion](#)

Wednesday, March 10th, 4 pm

Join staff at George Bruce for an open book discussion of Books that you have read and want to share with us.

This book discussion is geared toward parents/caregivers and their children. Both the parent/caregiver and the child must be present during the program: unaccompanied adults or children will be asked to leave the program. When registering for this book discussion program, parents/caregivers should use their information.

[Virtual LIVE Storytime](#)

Thursday March 11, 25 11-11:45am

Join Ms. Margo for a LIVE Storytime! We will meet for a live, online program with songs, rhymes, and favorite read-aloud books, as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family.

HRA Reported:

“Pay It Off” – Child Support Debt Reduction as announced previously, the Pay It Off Child Support Debt Reduction Program is open from March 1 through 31. Pay It Off allows noncustodial parents to reduce their child support debt owed to the New York City Department of Social Services (NYC DSS) twice as fast. For this limited time, noncustodial parents can get qualified payments matched dollar for dollar. Pay It Off will match payments they make in March of at least \$200 toward their NYC DSS child support debt – up to the amount they permanently owe NYC DSS. Payments must be over the amount of their monthly child support obligation. Noncustodial parents should sign and submit the agreement along with a copy of their photo I.D. by mail or email to the HRA Office of Child Support Services (OCSS). You can access the agreement form and learn more at nyc.gov/payitoff.

The OCSS Customer Service Office is closed and cannot be directly reached by telephone. If a client wants to speak with an OCSS staff member, they can request a telephone appointment by sending an email to dcse.cseweb@dfa.state.ny.us. Clients should include their case number, contact information, and, in the subject line, the reason for their inquiry or that they are “requesting a customer service appointment.” If their request for a telephone appointment is about the Pay It Off program, clients should write “Pay It Off” in the subject line of their email. Updates can be found at our website at www.nyc.gov/hra/ocss.

Clients can also call the New York State Child Support Helpline at 1-888-208-4485 (TTY: 1-866-875-9975), Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM–7:00 PM to request a call back from their local child support office.

Emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Allotments

As in prior months during the public health emergency, OTDA is issuing an emergency SNAP supplement to households who were issued SNAP benefits for March 2021 and whose issuance was less than the maximum allotment for their household size. The amount of the supplement is the difference between the amount the household was issued and the maximum allotment.

For example, if a SNAP household of two people was issued \$237 for March 2021, the household is issued a supplement of \$193 because the maximum allotment for two people is \$430.

The emergency SNAP supplement is being issued to households even if their SNAP case is currently closed. However, households who already received the maximum SNAP allotment will not receive an emergency supplement for March. Further information is available [here](#).

Answers to many questions [about SNAP Emergency Allotments for clients and providers can be found in this document](#). If clients want to know when their emergency SNAP benefits are available, they can check their available SNAP balance at accesshra.nyc.gov.

MTA Reported: The MTA recently launched a new feature on its popular Live Subway Map that will allow customers to easily find the locations of COVID-19 vaccination sites. Riders accessing the map, which launched in a beta phase last year, will now see which subway stations are located closest to vaccination sites. Tapping the new vaccine icon at the bottom right of the screen unveils the location of the vaccine centers, and clicking on a specific vaccine site provides accurate information about the type of vaccine provided at the center, restrictions on who is eligible, cost, and a link to schedule an appointment.

The Live Subway Map is a first of its kind guide to navigating the subway system in real time. Riders can see service changes, emergency alerts and train movements as they happen. The map can be accessed at map.mta.info and serves as the primary interactive means for helping customers navigate their trips on the subway system. The data powering the MTA's Vaccine Locator feature is the same as New York City's vaccine website.

The Live Subway Map and the new vaccination site locator update were designed entirely pro bono by Work & Co, and can be accessed at map.mta.info.

OTHER FEATURES OF THE LIVE SUBWAY MAP LAUNCHED LAST OCTOBER

Automatically updating train lines: Train lines redraw themselves using real-time data to illustrate current and accurate train service status. Sections of train lines fade out where a train line is not running and are denoted with dashes if trains are running in a single direction.

Moving trains: The user sees trains moving that help signal to users that the map is live and also reflect real-time locations of trains throughout the subway system.

Zoom-In features: Greater map detail is exposed as the user zooms in, including the ability to see individual train lines, subway entrances, station names, and street locations and names.

Subway accessibility: The new map highlights accessible stations and provides updates to accessibility related equipment like elevators and escalators.

Emergency alerts: The map uses the MTA's data feed to convey official MTA communications for emergencies.

Airports: The map visualizes both of NYC's major airports and the primary means of accessing them via the MTA system. The map indicates which train lines connect with buses and the AirTran to be able to access the airports. Users can tap or click on an airport to learn even more about how to access the airport using public transportation.

Mayor's Office Reported: The arrival of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the City's effort to vaccinate homebound New Yorkers is now officially underway, Mayor de Blasio recently announced.

The City of New York is partnering with the Department for the Aging, Medicaid Health Plans, and HRO to call thousands of homebound seniors who will be referred to a new city-run initiative to provide vaccinations in the home. The FDNY will deploy field teams with nurses to vaccinate older adults aged 65 and older in select residential buildings identified by DFTA and HPD starting March 4th.

Five teams are being deployed to vaccinate the first round of older adults at Co-op City in the Bronx and Brighton Beach respectively. This effort will scale up to 30 teams vaccinating 240 clients per day by the week of March 15.

The City is also working with healthcare providers experienced in home-based care, such as visiting doctors and nurses, who will begin vaccinating hundreds of homebound older adults and caregivers over the next two to three weeks.

The Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine gives the City a new tool in the vaccination campaign due to its efficacy with a single dose as well as ease of storage, shipping and distribution.

MBPO Reported: The City's effort to vaccinate homebound New Yorkers is now officially underway. Add your name to the list of those interested in receiving in-home vaccination: forms.cityofnewyork.us/f/homebound. The requirements are that you must be fully homebound, a resident of NYC, and eligible for the vaccine (see eligibility [here](#)).

The City is now hiring for its new [Vaccine for All Corps](#), particularly from hard-hit communities and industries. No health care experience is necessary for roles in vaccine site management, operations, and client services; the Corps is also hiring for clinical roles. Click the link to apply through the Dept. of Small Business Services.

Community-based organizations that want to learn about the Corps and how to refer qualified candidates can attend virtual info sessions by clicking the hyperlinked date:

Tuesday (3/9) at 2 pm

Wednesday (3/10) at 10 am

Thursday (3/11) at 10 am

Friday (3/12) at 10 am

Respectfully Submitted by:

Eutha Prince
District Manager