

District Manager's Report March, 2022

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Reported: (DEP) reminds homeowners of the importance of protecting pipes and water meters from freezing.

Most pipes and water meters are in basements, crawl spaces, and other unheated areas, where cold winter temperatures could cause them to freeze.

If a meter freezes and breaks because the homeowner did not take reasonable steps to protect it, DEP will repair or replace the meter and bill the homeowner for the cost. If a service line or pipe freezes and breaks, it is the homeowner's responsibility to have repairs made by a licensed master plumber.

Visit DEP's website at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/pay-my-bills/protect-your-pipes-from-freezing.page> for more information.

HRA/DSS Reported:

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Season Extended

The dates of operation for the Regular and Emergency HEAP benefit components will be extended from March 15, 2022 to April 29, 2022, or until funds allocated to these components are exhausted, whichever comes first.

A second Emergency benefit will be available to applicants from February 22, 2022 through April 29, 2022 when the Emergency component closes. The [eligibility criteria](#) for the second Emergency benefit will be the same as the first Emergency benefit. Applicants must have exhausted, or have unavailable to them, both the Regular benefit and the first Emergency benefit to be eligible for the second Emergency benefit. First and second Emergency benefits must not be issued concurrently.

New York State Homeowners Assistance Fund

As of February 18, the New York State Homeowners Assistance Fund (NYHAF) portal is no longer accepting new applications, and interested homeowners will be added to a waitlist. As a reminder, the New York State Homeowners Assistance Fund (NYHAF) has been designed and administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), the NYS Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF) will target low- to moderate-income homeowners who are behind on mortgage payments, property taxes, water or sewer bills, as well as owners of cooperative or condo units behind on maintenance fees, and manufactured homeowners behind on chattel loans or retail installment contracts.

Those who qualify can receive financial assistance to catch up on missed housing payments, reduce mortgage debt to make monthly mortgage payments more affordable, and receive up to six months of future housing payments.

Eligible applicants must have household incomes at or below 100 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) and must be at least 30 days delinquent on monthly housing payments for their primary residence. Awards will be capped at \$50,000 per household. Assistance will be structured as a five-year, non-interest, non-amortizing forgivable loan. If the homeowner remains in the home for a period of five years, the loan will be fully forgiven

Learn more at <https://hcr.ny.gov/homeowners>. Apply at www.nyhomeownerfund.org or call 1-844-77-NYHAF (a sole-purpose call center with live operators who speak multiple languages) to apply.

One Shot Deal – Clarification of ERAP Application Requirement

Applicants for One Shot Deal/Emergency Grants for rent arrears are no longer required to apply for ERAP to be eligible for a grant from HRA. This does not change with the re-opening of the ERAP portal. However, individuals who applied before the ERAP portal initially closed on 11/14/2021, and are still pending a State determination, must have that determination rendered before HRA is able to provide assistance for rent arrears.

Office of Child Support Services - Updates

Referral appointments for Cash Assistance cases have resumed and negative case actions may be taken if the client doesn't comply with their appointment. All appointments will be conducted over the telephone. OCSS staff will make two attempts to reach the client by telephone to conduct the appointment.

Negative case actions MAY be taken if a client received the "Avoid a Reduction in Your Benefits – Complete Your Child Support Application Today" notice and does not return their Referral for Child Support Services form. Reminder notices are sent to clients who don't return the form and/or comply with a telephone interview.

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Reported: NYC Vaccine Updates

Home Delivered COVID Antiviral Medication

The City has begun free home delivery -- as long as there is a prescription-- of oral antiviral pills Paxlovid (made by Pfizer), and Molnupiravir (by Merck), via Alto Pharmacy, a medication provider which has partnered with the City. Since supplies of the new drugs are extremely limited, deliveries will be prioritized to those who test positive and considered to be at higher risk for COVID.

Those who have tested positive and are otherwise qualified can visit [Virtual ExpressCare](#) for a phone or video visit, or call 212-COVID19 (212-268-4319) and press 9.

NYS MASK UPDATE : MASKS STILL MANDATORY

Masks are still required in public transportation, healthcare and other congregate settings. There has been no change to the City childcare mask policy; the [Health Commissioner's order](#) from November still stands.

Protecting the health and safety of our youngest New Yorkers is paramount. Children under 5 years of age are not yet eligible to be vaccinated and it is difficult to ensure distancing in child care settings.

Per our new COVID Alert system, masking in child care setting is time-limited and will be lifted six weeks after vaccines for this age group are made available by the federal government. This measure is needed to protect children, in lieu of vaccination, as rates of hospitalization for those under 5 have been at least double compared to children in other age groups in recent weeks.

<https://github.com/nychealth/coronavirus-data/blob/master/trends/weekly-hosp-rate-age.csv>

MASKS NOW OPTIONAL

Masks are now options at K-12 schools for students and staff, regardless of vaccination status. Businesses may choose to leave mask requirements in place.

KEY TO NYC UPDATE

The Mayor announced that Key to NYC will end on Monday 3/7. This means that proof of vaccine will no longer be required for indoor dining, entertainment, or fitness.

The vaccination requirements for private employers, childcare, high risk extracurricular activities, and City staff are all still in place.

COVID-19 Vaccination Information

Vaccination sites can be found at nyc.gov/vaccinefinder or by calling 877-VAX4-NYC. New Yorkers can also text their ZIP code to 438829 to receive information on vaccination sites near them, including what age groups can be served at each site.

For more information about vaccines and the vaccines for children, families can go to nyc.gov/covidvaccine and see this [FAQ](#), or call 212-COVID19 with questions about the vaccine.

In-home COVID-19 vaccinations

NYC also offers in-home COVID-19 vaccinations to any city resident who requests one. Schedule your appointment today for your in-home vaccination by filling out this form: <https://forms.cityofnewyork.us/f/home>

COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card or need verification

If you are fully vaccinated but lost your COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card or need verification of your vaccine status, you can request a copy of your COVID-19 vaccination record. Go here for more information: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/services/cir-parents-guardians.page?emci=66173915-da90-ec11-a507-281878b83d8a&emdi=b0619b95-0991-ec11-a507-281878b83d8a&ceid=4284574>

MTA Reported: To encourage New Yorkers to get back on subways, buses, and trains, and to reduce the cost and worry surrounding everyday travel, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has announced a pilot fare program that is more affordable, more flexible and more fair.

The new NYC Transit promotional fare structures took effect on February 28, and the new LIRR and Metro-North promotional fare structures took effect March 1. The pilot will last for at least four months.

Fair Fares NYC Fair Fares NYC subway and bus discount customers use a Fair Fares NYC MetroCard. All Fair Fares NYC MetroCards come ready to have time and/or value added. When you add time to your Fair Fares NYC MetroCard, you will be charged half the current price for the 7-Day (Weekly) or 30-Day (Monthly) Unlimited Ride options. When you add value, you will choose the amount you add to your card and half the current fare will be deducted for each swipe. For more information and to Check your eligibility for Fair Fares NYC click [Here](#)

Fare Capping Pilot for New York City Transit – Free Unlimited Rides Achieved After 12 OMNY Taps Automatically, Monday Through Sunday

The best weekly fare will be available to all riders who tap with OMNY, without the burden of pre-paying for the week, or having to track their progress.

OMNY's technology provides enhanced flexibility to subway, local bus, and Staten Island Railway customers, so they can start accumulating the benefits weekly without having to sign up. Anybody with a device or contactless card can start tapping their way to free rides as long as they use the same device or card each time.

Customers who tap and go with OMNY will be charged the standard \$2.75 pay-per-ride fare for their first 12 trips starting every Monday. Any trips after that through the following Sunday would be free.

As a result, no OMNY customer would pay more than \$33.00 per week, which is the current price of a seven-day unlimited-ride MetroCard. This way customers receive the benefits of a seven-day unlimited-ride card without having to decide to pay upfront.

Free transfers between subways and buses will continue to be offered to all customers under this pilot. Two-part trips that are linked by a free transfer between subway and bus are considered one trip toward the 12 needed to reach the free-fare threshold each week.

Did You Know:

Manhattan Community Board No. 9 is holding a PUBLIC HEARING on the Mayor's Preliminary Budget (Agency Responses to Community Board No. 9's FY 2023 Budget Requests), on Monday, March 14th, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.... Please register in advance for Public Hearing at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUuf-2pqjwsHdepQ4B2L75ruMH4yFuKcszr>

It is illegal for someone to pressure or force you to leave your home. Call 311 and ask for the Tenant Helpline to learn more about your rights. Go to the [Mayor's Office to Protect Tenant](#) site to learn more.

Changes to tax credits mean more money for New Yorkers when they file!

Earned Income Tax Credit. Child Tax Credit. Child and Dependent Care Credit. Claiming even one could return thousands of dollars to families and individuals in 2022.

NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) is excited to coordinate the City's Annual Tax Season Initiative. We're even more excited to collaborate with you to help. For more information about NYC Free Tax Prep services and eligibility for tax credits, visit nyc.gov/taxprep.

Eligible New Yorkers use [NYC Free Tax Prep](#) to file for free and keep their whole refund.

NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) Reported:

NYC Paid Safe and Sick leave is covered for all workers who:

- seek diagnosis or treatment of an illness, injury, or health condition;
- are sick, including from side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine;
- have to take kids to get the COVID-19 vaccine;
- need preventive care;
- have to quarantine;
- seek safety because of domestic violence, unwanted sexual contact, stalking, or human trafficking; or have to care for a family member for the reasons above.

For more information about the NYC Paid Safe and Sick Leave Law or to file a complaint, visit nyc.gov/workers.

All covered workers have the same rights and protections under the Law, regardless of immigration status.

Contact NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection: Call 311 and say “Paid Safe and Sick Leave” | Visit nyc.gov/workers | Email OLPS@dca.nyc.gov

New York City Mayor Eric Adams has released a “[Blueprint to End Gun Violence](#)” in New York City, which lays out numerous policy proposals Mayor Adams is seeking to implement to curb gun violence on New York City streets. The roadmap lays out Mayor Adams’ priorities to immediately address the crisis of guns on New York City streets. The Mayor's speech can be found [here](#).

Announcements/Employment Opportunities:

The Parks Department is hiring lifeguards to work five to six days each week during the summer. First-year lifeguards earn a minimum of \$16 an hour, for a weekly salary of about \$800. Parks’ beaches open on Memorial Day weekend, and pools open in late June; both close the Sunday after Labor Day. To qualify, applicants must pass the Lifeguard Qualifying Test, be at least 16 years of age by the start of employment, have at least 20/30 vision in one eye and 20/40 in the other - without corrective lenses, and be able to swim 50 yards in 35 seconds or less, with proper form.

SYEP...The 2022 Program will include two six-week cohorts beginning July 5 and running through August 20. Applications can be completed [online](#) or at a participating community-based organization during the application period, which runs through Friday, April 22, 2022. For more information, New Yorkers can call 311 or DYCD Community Connect at 1-800-246-4646.

DEP is hiring Rain Garden Maintainers DEP, in partnership with various City agencies, constructs green infrastructure rain gardens for the purpose of stormwater capture and improved water quality of NYC waterways.

Seasonal City Park Workers, the selected candidates will:

- ▶ Assist in general maintenance work, including edging, seeding, snow removal, cultivating, fertilizing, trimming, sweeping, removal of sediments, and raking of litter
- ▶ Clean and maintain facilities including drainage structures
- ▶ Drive vehicles and operate certain other motorized equipment

For further info. contact: nyc.gov/careers: Job ID # 518491 — Rain Garden Maintainer

Respectfully Submitted by:
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