

## DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT MAY-2021

### **DOE Reported: Conversation with Chancellor Porter in Your Borough**

Chancellor Porter will be embarking on a 5-borough family engagement tour! She wants to hear from you about School Reopening and your thoughts on where we should prioritize stimulus funding. Her first stop is Staten Island, Monday May 17th from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. You can sign up for the Staten Island event here: <https://learndoe.org/chancellor/>. Registrations links for other boroughs is forthcoming! For now, please save the following dates:

- Monday, May 24th - Manhattan
- Thursday May 27th - Queens
- Monday June 7th - Brooklyn
- Wednesday June 9th - Bronx

**Schools Chancellor Meisha Porter recently announced the launching of the 15<sup>th</sup> annual NYC School Survey**, one of the nation's largest annual surveys. The survey will be available online in ten languages for all parents and teachers, as well as students in grades 6-12, to complete by June 11. The NYC School Survey helps school leaders understand what members of their community think about the learning environment at their school and informs improvements to schools and programs.

The NYC School Survey represents DOE's ongoing commitment to listening to and learning from students, families and educators and is designed in partnership with the Research Alliance for NYC Schools. In response to the pandemic and based on last year's participant feedback, minor revisions were made to the survey this year to reflect current learning models, improve existing measures, and strengthen clarity.

The survey is aligned to the [\*Framework for Great Schools\*](#) and collects information about a school's capacity across six essential elements – Rigorous Instruction, Supportive Environment, Collaborative Teachers, Effective School Leadership, Strong Family-Community Ties, and Trust – that drive student achievement. Research has demonstrated that schools strong on the elements of the *Framework* are more likely to produce gains in attendance and student achievement.

The survey is available to all members of school communities online at [NYCSchoolSurvey.org](https://NYCSchoolSurvey.org). All survey responses are due by June 11, and the parent

and student surveys are available online in ten languages: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. Families without online access should contact their school for assistance. Some schools requested and received printable versions of the survey and will be in touch with their families about filling them out in person.

Results from the survey are included in each school's School Quality Snapshot available [online](#) and in each school's School Quality Reports, available [online](#) as searchable web-based and mobile-ready tools.

**Mayor's Office Reported: COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility** - All New Yorkers age 16 and older are eligible to get vaccinated. People who work or study in NYC are also eligible. Schedule an appointment through [www.nyc.gov/vaccinerfinder](http://www.nyc.gov/vaccinerfinder) or by calling 877-VAX4NYC (877-829-4692). Walk-up vaccinations for all eligible New Yorkers are also available at these locations: [www.on.nyc.gov/walkupvax](http://www.on.nyc.gov/walkupvax).

**In-Home Vaccinations** – New York City is providing in-home Covid-19 vaccinations to eligible NYC residents who are fully homebound, have not already been vaccinated, and do not already have access to a vaccination program.

New Yorkers who believe they are eligible for an in-home vaccination can express interest using the following link:

<https://forms.cityofnewyork.us/f/homebound?emci=c0c35690-31af-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&emdi=23c9cb74-51af-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&ceid=4284574>

**Economic Impact Payments** - Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, eligible individuals and families will receive a second round of Economic Impact Payments (stimulus payments) by direct deposit or mail. The second payments are up to \$600 for single filers and \$1,200 for married couples filing jointly plus an additional \$600 for each dependent child under age 17. No action is required by most eligible recipients. You can check your stimulus payment status via IRS at [irs.gov/eip](http://irs.gov/eip)

If you did not receive a first or second stimulus payment and think you may be eligible, or did not receive the full payment amount, you may be eligible to obtain a stimulus payment by claiming the Recovery Rebate Credit when you file your 2020 federal tax return. You can learn about NYC Free Tax Prep services to file your taxes and receive a stimulus payment(s) for free.

**COVID-19 Community Conversations:** The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is providing free 60-minute virtual presentation entitled COVID-19 Community Conversations: Mental Health, Equity & Resilience. The COVID-19 Community Conversation presentation covers topics including grief, trauma, coping, resilience and mental health tips. Please click following to register:  
*[https://queens\\_covidconvo.timetap.com/?emci=c0c35690-31af-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&emdi=23c9cb74-51af-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&ceid=4284574](https://queens_covidconvo.timetap.com/?emci=c0c35690-31af-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&emdi=23c9cb74-51af-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&ceid=4284574)*

**Office of Emergency Management Reported:** As New York City continues to rebuild during the COVID-19 pandemic, the work done by volunteers has been an essential lifeline to New York City communities. In 2019, over one million New Yorkers volunteered with City agencies and organizations that range from assistance to immigrant communities, veterans, low-income residents, and many more, according to end-of-year report by [NYC Service](#), a division of the Office of the Mayor that is focused on volunteerism and service. Volunteers in New York City have assisted families adjust to remote distance learning, provided wellness check to the elderly and helped prepped food deliveries for homebound New Yorkers.

**MTA Reported:** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recently announced eight new pop-up vaccination sites at MTA station stops in the New York City, Long Island and Mid-Hudson regions. The sites will serve up to 300 walk-ins per day on a first come, first served basis utilizing the single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The MTA will provide incentives to get vaccinated at the sites, including a free seven-day MetroCard or free round trip Long Island Rail Road or Metro-North ticket. The MTA will partner with SOMOS Community Care, Northwell Health and Westchester Medical Center on the sites. MTA employees can get vaccinated at the sites.

The sites will be open from Wednesday, May 12 to Sunday, May 16. Individuals planning on being vaccinated are encouraged to allow for additional time in their commute to accommodate the vaccination process.

The following MTA stations are available:

**Penn Station - 34th Street Corridor**

Open: 3 PM - 8 PM

**Grand Central Terminal - Vanderbilt Hall**

Open: 8 AM - 1 PM

**East 180th Street (Bronx)**

Open: 8 AM - 1 PM

**179th Street (Queens)**

Open: 8 AM - 1 PM

**Coney Island (Brooklyn)**

Open: 8 AM - 1 PM

**Broadway Junction (Brooklyn)**

Open: 3 PM - 8 PM

**Hempstead (LIRR)**

Open: 3 PM - 8 PM

**Ossining (Metro-North)**

Open: 3 PM - 8 PM

**NYPL Reported:** The New York Public Library is excited to announce the launching of Phase 2 of its reopening plan, which will initiate expanded service at select branch and research libraries, starting on Monday, May 10th.

**Branch Libraries**

On May 10th, 26 of the branch libraries currently open for grab-and-go service will expand offerings to include desktop computer use, printing, and limited browsing. Patrons can check out library materials through self-serve kiosks, the NYPL app, or self-assisted check-out. Desktop usage will be limited to 45 minutes per session while laptop lending will be available at a later stage. The 26 Branches moving to Phase 2 can be found on their [website](#).

**Research Libraries**

All of NYPL's research libraries will open limited spaces to patrons. Onsite access to these spaces is available by appointment only, and appointments can only be made following a virtual consultation with research staff. We will continue our scan and deliver program as well as onsite activities such as cataloguing,

digitization, and conservation. Patrons will still be able to pick up materials through a grab-and-go model.

### **Health and Safety Protocols**

As reopening moves forward, NYPL will maintain its strict health and safety protocols which have been followed to a great degree of success. This includes mandatory masks and physical distancing inside branches, temperature checks, and PPE/branch design adjustments to meet health and safety standards.

While we are pleased to share this next step, we want to reiterate that the safety of our staff and the public remains our number one priority. All reopening protocols and guidelines are the result of consultations with health and safety experts, the City, our Union, Branch Staff, and fellow library systems, Brooklyn and Queens Public Library. Our ultimate goal continues to be the reopening of all branches and to provide the full range of programs and services, but only when it is safe to do so. As with the initial launch of Phase 2 in November 2020, we continue to monitor the health and safety circumstances in the city. If the situation worsens, we will not hesitate to adjust this date as we did before.

During Phase 2, NYPL will maintain its expanded digital programming and virtual presence which includes services such as remote one-on-one career counseling, tutoring to support distance learning, TechConnect classes, [scan and deliver](#) for researchers, and live story times, among others. For those patrons without internet access, we continue to offer services like [ShelfHelp](#), where librarians prepare bundles of books for pickup based on patrons' interests. You can learn more about [grab and go](#) service, [open locations](#), and [remote offerings](#) on our website.

As the City continues its recovery, the Library looks forward to its future plans, which include outdoor programming, exhibit installations, and the eventual reopening of all our branches, among other initiatives. On behalf of the NYPL and the Government and Community Affairs team, we thank you for your steadfast support of libraries during these challenging times.

NYPL Government and Community Affairs

George Mihaltses, Vice President - [georgemihaltses@nypl.org](mailto:georgemihaltses@nypl.org)

Sydney Renwick, Associate Director - [sydneyrenwick@nypl.org](mailto:sydneyrenwick@nypl.org)

Amr Kotb, Manager - [amrkotb@nypl.org](mailto:amrkotb@nypl.org)

Jack Tomascak, Associate Manager - [jacktomascak@nypl.org](mailto:jacktomascak@nypl.org)

Isma Richards, Coordinator - [ismarichards@nypl.org](mailto:ismarichards@nypl.org)

**DFTA Reported:** They are reintroducing grab-and-go meals at older adult centers. The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) has authorized grab-and-go meals as an approved low-risk, outdoor activity at their older adult centers. This will serve as an important first step in their phased-in approach to re-opening these centers. DFTA is thrilled to provide their older adults the nutritious and delicious meals that they have missed for so long. Providers were notified and are in the process of providing more programmatic and financial information to share. Centers can start as early as May 10th for those who may be ready. NY1 also ran a story about it this Program.

**The FCC Reported:** Households that qualify for the Emergency Broadband Benefit must have an income at or below 135% of the [federal poverty guidelines](#) **OR** any member of the household:

- Qualifies for Lifeline benefits through participation in SNAP, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, Federal Public Housing Assistance, or Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit;
- Participates in one of several **Tribal specific programs**: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal Head Start (only households meeting the relevant income qualifying standard), Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020 with a total household income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers;
- Received a federal Pell Grant in the current award year;
- Received approval for benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program, and that provider received FCC approval for its eligibility verification process.

Only one monthly service discount and one device discount is allowed per [household](#). Program rules acknowledge there may be more than one eligible household residing at the same address.

You can receive the Emergency Broadband Benefit if you (or someone in your household) participates in one of these federal assistance programs:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps; Medicaid; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA); Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit; Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program

**DOHMH Reported:** The NY Project Hope is a FEMA funded crisis counseling response to the pandemic. It supports short-term interventions that involve assisting individuals in understanding their current situation and reactions, mitigating stress, developing coping strategies, providing emotional support, and encouraging linkages with other individuals and agencies that help survivors in their recovery process.

“NY Project Hope is New York’s COVID-19 Emotional Support Helpline. It helps New Yorkers understand their reactions and emotions during COVID-19. Through an emotional support helpline, educational materials, and trusted referrals, NY Project Hope helps people manage and cope with changes brought on by COVID-19.”

NY Project Hope Crisis Counselors are available; talking to them is free, confidential, and anonymous. Counselors are trained, knowledgeable and never judge; sometimes it helps to talk with someone you don’t know. Emotional Support Helpline: 1-844-863-9314, Website: NYProjectHope.org. (*See attached Flyer*)

Respectfully Submitted by,

Eutha Prince  
District Manager  
4/13/21