

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE'S COVID-19 SAFETY & PROTECTION GUIDE

**For More Information Please Contact:
THE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(EAP SERVICES)**

Location:	Memorial Hall – Room 213
Hours :	8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Days:	Tuesdays & Thursdays
Contact:	Kathy Devine, RN, Director @ 934-420-2644
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COVID-19 GUIDE TABLE OF CONTENTS

Emotional Support & Assistance	Page 2
Covid-19 Testing Information	Page 4-7
Covid-19 Vaccine Information	Page 8-9
Covid-19 Economic Impact on Tenants and Businesses	Page 10-12
Miscellaneous Financial Information	Page 13-14
Applying for Unemployment Benefits	Page 15 -17
Utility Bills/Credit Cards	Page 18-19
Emergency Financial Assistance	Page 20
Housing (Emergency Information)	Page 21
Health Insurance	Page 22
Resources for Jobs	Page 23
Food & Social Services Assistance	Page 24

**FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE
EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

NYS Dept of Health: <https://www.health.ny.gov/disease/communicable/coronavirus/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Governor Cuomo's Office: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news>

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ASSISTANCE:

NYS Office of Mental Health Emotional Support Line: 1-844 863 9314

The Emotional Support Line provides free and confidential support, helping callers experiencing increased anxiety due to corona virus emergency. The Help Line is staffed by volunteers, including mental health professionals, who have received training in crisis counseling.

Association for Mental Health and Wellness (MHAW): 631-471-7242 ext. 2, is open for calls Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm or via email at: helpline@mhaw.org. Emails can be sent 24/7 and will be responded to the same day or next day. MHAW plans on extending their hours. Additional covid-19 related resources can be found on the Mental Health Helpline web page.

MHAW offers expanded hours for its Peer Support Line and online Peer Support Groups. These services are staffed by trained and experienced Certified Peer Specialists who have experience with emotional distress. This telephone and online support will maximize access to those served and help to minimize the potential negative effects of social isolation during this challenging time.

Optum Free Emotional Support Line 24/7 for COVID Anxiety: 866-342-6892

National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI): The NAMI Helpline is updated to operate remotely so callers can continue to access mental health support and resources. Call 1-800-950-NAMI (6242) or email: info@nami.org if you or someone you know needs guidance and support .

MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY: NASSAU COUNTY 516-489-2322 SUFFOLK COUNTY: 631-952-3333 or Response: 631-751-7500

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Healthcare Providers Experiencing Supply Shortage can request PPE from The Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management:

<https://res.suffolkcountyny.gov/Covid19SupplyRequest/Default.aspx>

Masks for Seniors & Those Without Access to Face Coverings: Residents in the 18th District who cannot access a face covering may send their request for a free washable mask to **William.spencer@suffolkcountyny.gov** or call **(631) 854-4500**. Please include your name, address, the number of people in your family, and the best time for delivery. **Anyone in need of a face covering, who resides in Suffolk County but outside of the 18th District, can call 3-1-1 for assistance.**

Residents are Encouraged to Sign-Up for Smart 911

This technology allows individuals and families to provide critical medical information to 9-1-1 operators and first responders. If you're signed up - when you **call 9-1-1, your Smart911 Safety Profile** displays on the 9-1-1 screen and the call takers can view your addresses, medical information, home information, description of pets and vehicles, and emergency contacts. You can provide as much or as little information as you like. Ultimately, Smart911 gives our community the chance to be proactive, and lets us know who requires our services. **enroll. Visit Smart911.com to sign up.**

Coronavirus Testing

Please note: Not all of these tests are free, however, most insurance plans do cover some or all of the cost of the visit, including the test. Check with your provider to determine eligibility.

Testing Sites: A comprehensive list of testing locations near you can be found at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>.

New York State DOH Mobile Testing:

Now available at Stony Brook University and Jones Beach **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. Suffolk residents who think they may be infected can **call the NYS COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-364-3065** -- a nurse or healthcare professional will assess the situation to determine if testing is needed.

Online Screening: If you are concerned about COVID-19 and would like to take an online assessment, please access this link <https://covid19screening.health.ny.gov/covid-19-screening/>. **If you meet the criteria, you will receive a callback from NYS to schedule a test.**

Access your results at: <https://www.bioreference.com/patient-portal/> or call 833-469-5227.

Testing sites: There are multiple testing sites throughout Long Island. Testing is available at multiple CVS, Walgreens and Rite-Aid Pharmacies. Call your local pharmacy to get nearest location and further information. Most offer free testing to anyone 18 years and older. Medicare, Medicaid and private insurances will cover the cost. If you go to your private doctor's office, there may be an office visit charge. Again it will be covered under your insurance. It is recommended that you call regarding details before you go.

CVS Minute Clinic has multiple sites in Nassau and Suffolk. Visit <https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing> for more information.

City MD Urgent Care is offering testing at all their facilities for New Yorkers **without** insurance

Visit <https://www.citymd.com/>. For locations near you and further details

Drive Through Testing - also available at:

Stony Brook Drive Through Testing Site, 100 Nicolls Rd, Stony Brook, NY 11794
Jones Beach Drive Test Site – Drive Through Testing. Contact ahead for details & appointment.

ProHEALTH Riverhead Drive-Thru Testing Site:

If you have COVID-19 symptoms, ProHEALTH has a dedicated hotline that patients can **call at 516-874- 0411** to talk to a medical professional. If your symptoms suggest testing is needed, you will be scheduled for drive-thru testing.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.prohealthcare.com/>.

- ❑ **Location:** 1149 Old Country Road, Riverhead, NY 11901
- ❑ **Hours:** Monday–Friday, 8:00am–5:00pm; Saturday–Sunday, 8:00am–5:00pm

RITE AID Covid-19 testing available at no cost for anyone 18+ years of age.

Rite Aid has partnered with Verily and will use its Baseline COVID-19 Program to provide screening, scheduling, and return of results to participants at Rite Aid testing sites. All Rite Aid COVID-19 testing locations utilize self-swab nasal tests overseen by Rite Aid pharmacists. At all testing locations, patients are required to provide government issued identification, be at least 18 years old, and need to pre-register online at <https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/services/covid-19-testing> in order to schedule a time slot for testing.

AFC Urgent Care: Antibody testing is performed at the West Islip location **ONLY**, 125 Sunrise Highway, West slip, NY 11795. *Only patients with **NO COVID-19 SYMPTOMS*** can be tested. No walk-in appointments accepted. This booking portal opens at midnight for the following day appointment. Test collection is available only to patients who are asymptomatic; have been asymptomatic for at least 10 days; have no fever and are wearing a mask. Visit the following link to schedule an appointment:

<https://www.solvehealth.com/book-online/pJJVw0>

COVID-19 Antibody Testing Sites:

Please note that these tests are not free, however, most insurance plans do cover some or all of the cost of the visit, including the test. Check with your provider to determine eligibility

- ❑ **CityMD** (At all locations as of April 28 - CityMD Cutchogue remains closed). Visit <https://www.citymd.com/> to find the location nearest you.
- ❑ **AFC Urgent Care:** Antibody testing is performed at the West Islip location ONLY, 125 Sunrise Highway, West Islip, NY 11795. ONLY patients with NO COVID-19 symptoms can be tested. No walk-in appointments accepted. The booking portal opens at midnight for the following days appointment. Test collection is available only to patients who are asymptomatic; have been asymptomatic for at least 10 days; lack a fever and are wearing a face mask. Visit the following link to schedule an appointment: <https://www.solvehealth.com/book-online/plJVw0>

NYS Department of Health Protocol for Diagnostic Testing

As New York State aggressively expands COVID-19 diagnostic testing capacity, the Department of Health has revised guidance to increase testing for frontline workers, including all first responders, health care workers, and essential employees who interact with the public, while continuing to prioritize resources. Testing for COVID-19 shall be authorized by a health care provider for individuals who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- ❑ An individual is symptomatic or has a history of symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, and/or trouble breathing, extreme fatigue), particularly if the individual is 70 years of age or older, the individual has a compromised immune system, or the individual has an underlying health condition.
- ❑ An individual has had close (i.e. within six feet) or proximate contact with a person known to be positive with COVID-19.
- ❑ An individual is subject to a precautionary or mandatory quarantine.
- ❑ An individual is employed as a health care worker, first responder, or other essential worker who directly interacts with the public while working.
- ❑ An individual presents with a case where the facts and circumstances – as determined by the treating clinician in consultation with state or local department of health officials – warrant testing.

COVID-19 Release Letter

Residents who have recovered from COVID-19 and have completed their mandatory isolation/quarantine period can request a release letter from the Suffolk County Department of Health Services that shows

their eligibility to return to school or work.

Visit <https://health.suffolkcountyny.gov/covidreleaseletters/LetterSelect.aspx>

to fill out the questionnaire.

Residents can also use this link to request a letter providing proof of COVID-19 positive testing and an excusal from work/school letter.

Please note These letters only identify your release from medical isolation or quarantine imposed by the Suffolk County Department of Health, and do not release you from any other restrictions related to covid-19 imposed by the State of New York.

ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Multiple vaccines? How many are there?

- An FDA panel of experts reviewed & signed off on the vaccine from Pfizer & Moderna. The FDA typically follows that committee's recommendations. The clinical trials have shown that these vaccines are about 95% effective.
- Two Dose regimen – with second dose for Pfizer vaccine 21 days after the first dose. With Moderna, second dose is prescribed for 28 days following the first dose. It is essential that you receive the second dose.

Will there be enough vaccine for everyone?

- Yes, but not immediately. There will be a limited supply of the vaccine to begin with. The CDC said that its goal is to see an increase in the supply over the weeks and months to come, adding that it hopes to have everyone be able to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as large quantities are available.

When will the vaccines be available on Long Island?

- The larger health care systems in the region said they have received vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer. The number of doses coming in the first deliveries to each health care system is still being worked out. But in total **26,500** vaccines arrived on Long Island as of the weekend of **Dec. 12-13**.

Will I have to pay for the vaccine?

- Weeks ago Medicare and Medicaid Services said that they and private insurers must cover the vaccine for all beneficiaries. But pharmacies and others can charge fees for administering the vaccine, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Those with Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance can get reimbursement, the CDC said. Medicare will pay **\$45.33** for a two dose administration, according to an agency website. Uninsured people can get reimbursement from a fund set up by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Where will I go to be vaccinated?

- The CDC said there will be several thousand vaccinations locations nationwide, including pharmacies, hospitals, doctor's offices and federally qualified health centers, which serve many low income and uninsured people. Walgreens and CVS employees will travel to nursing homes to administer the vaccine to residents and staff there. A Long Island nursing home administrator said a CVS webinar for long-term care facilities said CVS employees would administer the vaccines to residents in their rooms, and to staff in a centralized area.

As indicated above some vaccine candidates – such as Pfizer and Moderna – require two injections a few weeks apart, viz., 21 days & 28 days respectively.

MORE ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE

I heard that two people in Britain had severe allergic reactions after taking the vaccine. Should I be scared to take the vaccine?

- The average person should not be afraid, said Dr. Onisis Stefas, chief pharmacy officer at Northwell Health. “I think it’s important that people do receive the vaccine,” he said. “In the event there is an allergic reaction or anything else, we do have health care providers and [equipment] to treat those folks.
- British investigators are studying whether the reactions are the result of the vaccine. A British government agency said people **with a history of severe allergic reactions to vaccines, food or medicines-** like the two people in Britain who had a reaction- **should NOT take the vaccine.** Other vaccines and medicines also carry allergy warnings.

Note: If you have a severe allergic reaction, call you primary care physician who knows your medical history and discuss the reaction with him/her.

COVID's Economic Impact on Tenants & Small Business

- Suffolk County announced a new initiative - ***“Bringing Assistance for COVID-19 and Kickstarting Support for Operating Professionals”*** - which will distribute emergency rental assistance to tenants and provide nearly 150 small businesses with grants. The funding comes as COVID cases surge once again, wreaking economic havoc on residents and businesses. Here is the Program by the numbers:
- **For Renters: \$2,500** is the maximum an applicant can receive. The rent program will provide a one-time rent payment to eligible applicants up to 100% of one month's rent. This program is for residents in existing rental units and applicants will be required to fill out a sign a self-certification to verify their income and how they were affected by the pandemic. Renters must occupy legal permanent housing in Suffolk Count. Those living in *hotels, motels or dorms* do NOT qualify.
- **\$600,000** is the total available to Suffolk, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. A significant portion of income goes to pay for housing expenses on Long Island, which include rent and utilities or homeownership costs, such as mortgage, property taxes and insurance.
- **30 %** is the percentage of income that nearly six in ten (6:10) renters and nearly more than one in three (1:3) homeowners on the island spend on housing , the Regional Plan Association said in October.
- **24%** is the percentage increase in the region's median cost of housing since 2000 for renters and homeowners, according to the report
- .
- **FOR SMALL BUSINESSES: \$5,000** is the maximum for businesses with up to 10 full-time employees.

- **\$10,000** is the maximum for businesses with 11 to 50 full-time employees. Eligible businesses include gyms, hair salons and barber shops, nail salons, restaurants, bars and taverns.
- **\$ 1 million** is the amount available through federal Community Development Block Grant funding. Small businesses drive a large portion of the Island's economy. For the fourth-quarter of 2018, the last period for which the census data was available, businesses with up to 19 employees accounted for 140,692 of 571,138 private-sector jobs in Nassau and 154,535 of 566,274 jobs in Suffolk.
- **58%** is the percentage of jobs generated by small businesses on Long Island, based upon the census data for the fourth quarter of 2018.

How to Apply: Applications will be accepted from December 17 to January 15 via newsday.com/suffolkrecovery.

Farmingdale Small Business & Stony Brook Small Business Development

Centers: A Business Advisor can help you navigate through the abundance of resources available for your particular business/industry and to avoid the most common mistakes.

Schedule an appointment online at <http://nysbdc.org/appointment.html>

Online Technology Enhancement Assistance For Businesses: The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Stony Brook University has partnered with Suffolk County Forward Program and Stony Brook University Colleges of Business and Engineering to assist Suffolk County small business owners with enhancing their online technology capabilities. The program will assess small businesses' current technology, pinpoint needs, and assist in developing solutions, including but not limited to:

- Setting Up Contactless and Remote Payments
- Ensuring Websites are Mobile Friendly
- Managing Delivery Orders From Multiple Delivery Services

For more information, visit <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/sbdc/index.php>.

To participate in this FREE program, request a virtual appointment at <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/business/about/COV19-for-Business/>.

The SBDC is also offering virtual workshops to help businesses as they adapt during this time of economic uncertainty. To access a list of upcoming workshops and to register, visit <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/sbdc/events/index.php>.

Town of Huntington Business Reopening Resource Page: Businesses can find information on how to obtain permits for temporary outdoor dining on sidewalks, construction permits, sidewalk sales, as well as other guidance and information to assist in the reopening process and help accelerate the local economic recovery. Visit www.huntingtonny.gov/reopening.

New York State Work Share Program where employers can reduce hours and employees can file for unemployment to make up the difference - <https://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/employerinfo/shared-work-program.shtm>

- Shared Work lets employers keep trained staff and avoid layoffs. Employees can receive partial Unemployment Insurance benefits while working reduced hours. Full-time, part-time and seasonal employees are eligible. [Fact sheet for employers.](#)
- To take part in the Shared Work Program, you must first design a Shared Work plan. Complete an application online through secure [UI Online Services](#) on your Employer Information page. Applying online will provide more accurate information and a quicker response by email.

Your Shared Work Plan Must:

- Reduce work hours and corresponding wages 20 - 60%
- Apply to employees who normally work no more than 40 hours per week
- Not reduce or eliminate fringe benefits unless fringe benefits are also being reduced or eliminated for the entire work force
- Not extend beyond 53 weeks (when nearing the end of the plan, you may submit a request for a new plan)

☐ Replace a layoff of an equal percentage of employee

☐

☐

Expanded Unemployment Insurance:

- The Act provides enhanced Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for New Yorkers.
- **Those in need can conveniently apply online at:**

<https://applications.labor.ny.gov/IndividualReg/>

Student Loan Payments:

- Student Loan borrowers can put off paying **Federal** student loan payments.
*****The Secretary of Education has continued to suspend loan payments, stop collections, and waive interest on ED-held student loans until Dec. 31, 2020.**
- Payments are suspended without interest, and collection on defaulted debts, including garnishment has been suspended.
- This does not affect borrowers who seek loan forgiveness after 10 years.
- This bill does not forgive any existing student debt.
- Private loans, and some federal loans disbursed prior to 2008 are not included.
- In 2020, Employers may pay \$5,250 of an employee's student loan obligation on a tax-free basis.

Retirement Fund Use:

- ② Those taking Coronavirus-related withdrawals from retirement plans can withdraw up to \$100,000 this year without the usual 10% penalty, as long as a result of the outbreak.
 - Income taxes owed can be spread out over three years from the date of distribution, and the account holder is permitted to put the money back into the account within the three- year period, even though normal rules may preclude making a contribution of that size.
- To qualify for coronavirus-related withdrawals: You, your spouse, or dependent must have tested positive or experienced a variety of other negative economic consequences related to the pandemic.
- For the 2020 calendar year, no one will be required take a [required minimum distribution](#) from any individual retirement accounts or workplace retirement savings plans, like a 401(k).
- **Individuals borrowing from their 401(k) or other workplace retirement plan** can take out twice the usual amount, up to \$100,000.
 - This is available for 180 days after the bill passes, with certification that you've been affected by the pandemic
 - Usually you can't take out more than half your balance, but that rule is suspended.
 - Any outstanding loans which were supposed to be repaid by December 31,

2020- can be delayed by one year.

Charitable Contributions:

- Individuals will be able to donate up to \$300 to charity in addition to their standard deduction. This will not require itemization.

Applying For Unemployment Through New York State

<https://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/pdfs/Unemployment-Filing-Instructions.pdf>

- Unemployment benefits will be extended from the usual 26 weeks to 39 weeks. The Federal government will fund 13 weeks of unemployment benefits through December 31, 2020 after workers have run out of State unemployment benefits. Hopefully it will be extended due to the rise of covid-19 cases.
- Visit <https://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/pdfs/cares-act-need-to-know.pdf> for information about the CARES Act from NYS Department of Labor.

The 7-Day waiting period for Unemployment Insurance Benefits has been waived for people who are out of work due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) closures. Applicants can file online on a rolling basis. If calling, applicants should apply according to the schedule below based on the first letter of their last name (alphabetical order). Filing later in the week does not delay payments or affect the date of an individual’s claim. All claims are effective on the Monday of the week in which they are filed. **Telephone applicants can call:** (888) 209-8124

Please have the following information on hand before filing your claim: Name, contact information, social security number, driver’s license information, your last W-2, and your bank account/routing number (if you want direct deposit).

WEB SERVICE HOURS			7:30am - 7:30pm	7:30am - 5pm	12am SAT → 7pm SUN	
PHONE SERVICE HOURS			8:00am - 7:30pm		7:30am - 8:00pm	
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
File on the day your last names begins with:			Missed your filing day? File on Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday.			
A - F	G - N	O - Z				

***Please note** - The NYS DOL is experiencing an unprecedented volume of calls. The most efficient way for residents to file a claim is via the DOL website (<https://applications.labor.ny.gov/IndividualReg/>). Approximately 80% of applicants can complete the required forms there, without having to call the center. *If you have been instructed to call the DOL Telephone Claims Center to complete your filing, you no longer need to call. A representative from the NYS DOL will call you back within 72 hours.*

518-704-2704

IS AN OUTBOUND NYS DOL PHONE NUMBER.

ANY CALLS YOU RECEIVE FROM THIS NUMBER ARE FROM
REPRESENTATIVES PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR YOUR UI CLAIM

- Protecting your private information is critically important. ANYONE calling from NYS DOL will verify their identity by providing: (a) the date you filed your Unemployment Insurance application; and (b) the type of claim you filed.

The Department of Labor is **backdating all claims**. Filing later in the week will not delay payments or affect the date of an individual's claim. **Individual's checks will be retroactive to the first day that they are out of work, and the 7-day waiting period has been waived.** Rest assured, regardless of when you are able to speak to a representative, you will be paid back to the date of the last day of your employment.

Bills

PSEG-Long Island: The utility requests that customers experiencing financial difficulty as a result of issues related to the virus, contact PSEG Long Island via My Account at www.psegliny.com/myaccount or by calling 800-490-0025 to enter into a deferred payment arrangement.

National Grid: Anyone struggling with paying their bill should contact National Grid as soon as possible to discuss relief options. For more information, visit <https://www.nationalgridus.com/Long-Island-NY-Home/Bill-Help/Help-Making-Payments>.

Verizon: Verizon has announced they will continue to work with customers impacted by COVID-19 to provide the best financial options available now and moving forward. Contact your carrier directly to find out what assistance may be available.

Altice USA is helping low-income students, seniors and veterans stay connected during this unprecedented time for a discounted price through their Altice Advantage Internet Program. You may qualify if you or a member of your household is: eligible for or participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP); is eligible for or receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and is 65 years of age or older; or a veteran and receive state or federal public assistance. Visit the Altice Advantage Internet website for details on how to sign up: <https://www.alticeadvantageinternet.com/>

- To support the need for remote instruction, Altice USA is proud to announce it is offering Altice Advantage Internet 30Mbps service FREE for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not currently have home internet access. Households in the Optimum service area can call to sign up at 866.200.9522 or visit <https://www.alticeadvantageinternet.com/> for more information.
- In addition, Altice USA has also introduced a \$5 per month Educator Discount available on select Internet and TV packages to show appreciation to the dedicated teachers who are making learning possible for their students both in the classroom and remotely. Educators in the Optimum service area can visit <https://www.optimum.com/educator> to learn more.

Credit Cards - Many credit card companies are amending their policies to assist customers experiencing financial hardships as a result of COVID-19. If you are having difficulties paying your bill contact your creditor direct to determine if there are relief options available and if you qualify for assistance. For details on steps being taken by some of the major credit card companies visit: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/advisor/2020/04/03/list-banks-offering-relief-to-customers-affected-by-coronavirus-covid-19/#34e399834efa>

Financial Assistance

EOC of Suffolk COVID-19 Emergency Financial Assistance: Through funding from the Federal Community Service Block Grant program, the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk is offering financial assistance to individuals and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial hardships/need include mortgage assistance, rental assistance, help with utility bills, food costs, transportation, funeral costs, medical expenses, etc. Applicants household income must not exceed 200% of poverty guidelines. For more information on how to apply, contact Halim Kaygisiz via email at hkaygisiz@eoc-suffolk.com or by phone at 631-241-2119. Visit <https://eoc-suffolk.com/> for more information.

Emergency COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave: Guarantees workers job protection and financial compensation in the event they, or their minor dependent child, are subject to an order of mandatory or precautionary quarantine or isolation due to coronavirus. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/paid-sick-leave-covid-19-impacted-new-yorkers/emergency-covid-19-paid-sick-leave>

- ❑ **Note:** Those quarantined and working from home, do not qualify for emergency paid sick leave.
- ❑ Some people may be eligible for additional leave under NYS Paid Family Leave and disability benefits. Visit, <https://paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/COVID19>

COVID-19 Financial Survival Toolkit for New Yorkers From NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli: <https://osc.state.ny.us/covid-19/financial-toolkit>.

Housing

Eviction proceedings and pending eviction orders were suspended statewide March 16, 2020 - per a memo from New York's Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks. On May 7th, the Governor announced that ***the halt on COVID-related evictions has been extended until January 21, 2021***. The state also banned late payment fees for missed rent payments during the eviction moratorium and will allow renters to use security deposits as payment.

If you believe your landlord is violating housing laws, please report it to the Attorney General's Office:

Call 800-771-7755 or visit <https://ag.ny.gov/coronavirus#tenantrights>.

Emergency Housing Through Suffolk County Department of Social Services: Call 631-854-9936 during normal business hours. After 4:30pm or on weekends or holidays, call Emergency Services at 631-854- 9100.

Long Island Housing Partnership: Housing counselors are available to provide first-time homebuyer counseling and foreclosure and mortgage counseling throughout the current crisis. Opportunities for first time home buyers and renters are still available, and applications are being processed. Staff are working remotely, and operations will be slightly different as social distancing requires services to be offered by phone or video conferencing. For information, visit www.lihp.org or contact info@lihp.org.

Health Insurance

The NY State of Health Marketplace has been reopened for a special enrollment period to ease COVID- 19 concerns **through the end of 2020**. Uninsured individuals can visit nystateofhealth.ny.gov or call 800- 453-4666 to apply for health insurance coverage.

The Health and Welfare Council of Long Island is helping uninsured residents enroll in health insurance through the NYS Marketplace. Staff is available to assist community members by phone in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole – Call (516) 505-4426.

Cost Sharing Waived: Governor Cuomo has directed health insurers to waive cost sharing associated with testing for coronavirus, including emergency room, urgent care, and office visits. New Yorkers receiving Medicaid coverage will not be expected to pay a co-pay for any testing related to COVID-19.

Medicare: Medicare covers the lab tests for COVID-19 – with no out-of-pocket cost to patients, and all medically necessary hospitalizations. The vaccine will be covered by all Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (Part D). <https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-coronavirus>

Medicare Advantage and Part D Plans have been directed to:

- Waive cost sharing for COVID-19 tests.
- Waive cost sharing for COVID-19 treatments in doctor’s offices or emergency rooms and services delivered via telehealth.
- Remove prior-authorizations requirements
- Waive prescription refill limits.
- Relax restrictions on home or mail delivery of prescriptions.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-issues-guidance-help-medicare-advantage-and-part-d-plans-respond-covid-19>

Resources for Job Seekers

Suffolk County Forward - Virtual Career & Talent Portal: To help business owners and residents as we reopen the economy, the Department of Labor has created a virtual career and talent portal – a “One Stop Shop” that connects jobseekers and employers - scnyforward.info.

For Jobseekers

- Research the local job market - in demand careers, occupations, skills, industries that are hiring.
- View local job opportunities – features all posts that employers make on other sites for local jobs in one place as well as links to apply.
- Virtual Job Matching & Skills Gap Analysis – enables jobseekers to see how their skills and experience match with employer job requirements, identify gaps and connect with potential training opportunities.
- Build resumes and cover letters specific to their job search.
- 24-hour Veterans Hold – vets have first priority to apply for all jobs.

For Employers

- Connect with local job seekers, search resumes.
- Post specific targeted opportunities – Virtual Career & Talent Center includes job postings that employers put on their website or Indeed (no need to duplicate efforts). In addition, companies can develop separate job postings to target specific opportunities and search resumes from Suffolk County jobseekers that post them on the site.
- View local job market landscape to compare roles, responsibilities and pay rates.

Emerging Workforce & Educators

- Students can research skills, educational credentials and careers locally to help determine their post-secondary education/training path and inform work experience/internship choices.
- Educators, Work-Based Learning Coordinators, Guidance Counselors can research industry skills and educational requirements to design experiential learning that further strengthens the classroom to career connection.

Suffolk County Business Reopening Management/Complaint Portal: suffolkcountyny.gov/scnyforward

New York State Department of Labor – Jobs Express Website: Currently, more than 12,500 jobs are available in a number of different fields from businesses looking to hire immediately. <https://www.labor.ny.gov/jobs/regional.shtm>

Food Services & Social Services

Suffolk County DSS - South West Center

2 South 2nd Street, Deer Park, NY 11729

The number to call for Food Stamps or Temporary Assistance is 631-854-1802

- In response to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the declaration of a State disaster, Temporary Assistance applications and re-certifications can be submitted by mail (instead of going to a center). Eligibility Interviews and Recertification Interviews may be conducted by phone. The department has made every effort to contact anyone with a scheduled appointment and will have that interview conducted on the same date and time by telephone.
- Consumers applying for emergencies may be interviewed by phone, however they will still need to provide documentation of the emergency need so that the department can make an accurate assessment and determine the assistance necessary to meet the need.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) applications and re-certifications can be submitted electronically at mybenefits.ny.gov or by mail (instead of coming to a center). SNAP application and recertification interviews will be done by phone.
- **Additionally, SNAP benefits can be used for online grocery purchases at certain stores.** Current participating retailers include Amazon, Walmart and ShopRite. Amazon is available statewide; Walmart and ShopRite participate in specific zip codes. Walmart, depending on specific locations, offers delivery, pick-up or both. Clients can enter zip code on the Walmart or ShopRite websites to find availability.
- Working remotely at this time – clients (new & registered) will be handled by phone.