



Dear Neighbor,

August was an unusually busy month this year, with important hearings on two issues of interest to many of my constituents: implementation of congestion pricing and City Council redistricting. Below I offer some thought on these issues, as well as links to my testimony to the MTA and the New York City Redistricting Commission.

In this email, I also provide public health updates on COVID-19, Monkeypox, and Polio to ensure that you have up-to-date information. For many months, my COVID-19 updates have included detailed information about how to access COVID-19 vaccinations, testing, and treatment. Starting with this email, links to these resources are provided under **COVID-19 Resources**.

Finally, I have also included below other community updates, including information about student loan debt relief and forgiveness, and changes in FDA regulations surrounding hearing aids.

Best,

Liz Krueger
State Senator

Congestion Pricing

I recognize that congestion pricing is a contentious issue for many residents of Manhattan as well as other parts of the New York City metropolitan area. I have long supported congestion pricing as a way to address the overcrowding of our streets, reduce pollution, and ensure adequate funding for public transportation. That said, I do believe there are important issues that need to be considered in order to ensure that the new tolling system is implemented in an equitable way that does not create unintended negative impacts.

This week I submitted testimony to the MTA on the Environmental Assessment for congestion pricing, which provides my comments on a number of issues. Some of the key topics I focus on are tolling patterns for the 59th Street Bridge, the need to structure tolls in a way that discourages unnecessary truck traffic through the zone, the need to treat taxis and buses equitably, and the need to ensure that disability and income-based exemptions/tax credits are easily accessible for those who are eligible. You can read my testimony here: <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/articles/2022/liz-krueger/sen-krueger-submits-testimony-congestion-pricing>.

The public comment period on the Environmental Assessment is open until September 9th. If you wish to submit comments and have not already done so, you can use the “Comment on the Environmental Assessment” link on this page: <https://new.mta.info/project/CBDTP>.

Following the public review period, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will determine whether establishment of the program would result in significant effects in addition to the widespread benefits detailed in the assessment. Based on that review, the FHWA will either approve the assessment or, if it determines that there are significant effects that cannot be mitigated, request an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) requiring further study of the proposed program. If the FHWA approves the project, contractors would have up to 310 days to design, develop and implement the tolling infrastructure and tolling system technology that would process the tolls

Council Redistricting

I also submitted testimony to the New York City Redistricting Commission expressing my concerns about the draft district maps, which would move a portion of the Upper East Side, along with Sutton Place and Roosevelt Island, into a council district that is primarily based in Queens. These neighborhoods have traditionally been linked in Council District 5 and are part of a single community of interest with the Upper East Side, with a shared history, infrastructure, and institutional relationships. The lines as proposed will result in less streamlined, less effective representation for the residents of these areas. I testified in support of the map submitted by Manhattan Community Boards 6 and 8 that keeps these communities of interest united within two Manhattan-based Council Districts. My testimony is available at <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/articles/2022/liz-krueger/sen-krueger-submits-testimony-nyc-districting-commission>.

Over-The-Counter Hearing Aids

Hearing loss is common in older adults and ranges in severity. Without treatment, it may be difficult for individuals to engage with others, and they may experience depression and cognitive decline. Hearing aids are available to improve hearing capacity, but they can cost thousands of dollars and are not covered by Medicare.

On August 16, the FDA issued a [final rule](#) to improve access to hearing aids, which will hopefully lower costs for millions of Americans. The final rule creates a new category of over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids, enabling consumers with perceived mild to moderate hearing impairment to purchase hearing aids directly from stores or online retailers without the need for a medical exam, prescription or a fitting adjustment by an audiologist.

The FDA’s final rule will go into effect in 60 days from August 16. It is anticipated that as we get closer to the effective date, new hearing aid products will begin to appear on the market for purchase at lower cost. To learn more, please see the following resources:

- [Hearing Aids and Personal Sound Amplification Products: What to Know](#) (FDA)
- [F.D.A. Clears Path for Hearing Aids to Be Sold Over the Counter](#) (NY Times)

Student Loan Debt Relief

Last week, the Biden Administration announced the U.S. Department of Education will take the following steps to address the burden of growing college costs and make the student loan system more manageable for working families:

- **Provide targeted debt relief to address the financial harms of the pandemic.** The Department of Education will provide up to \$20,000 in debt cancellation to Pell Grant recipients with loans held by the Department of Education, and up to \$10,000 in debt cancellation to non-Pell Grant recipients. Borrowers are eligible for this relief if their individual income is less than \$125,000 (\$250,000 for married couples). To ensure a smooth transition to repayment and prevent unnecessary defaults, **the pause on federal student loan repayment will be extended one final time through December 31, 2022.** Borrowers should expect to resume payment in January 2023.

More information on how to apply for this student loan debt cancellation will be provided in the coming weeks. The deadline for eligible student loan recipients to apply is December 31, 2023. Please visit the [Federal Student Aid Student Debt Relief web page](#) for more information. **If you would like to be notified when the application is open,** please sign up at the [Department of Education subscription page](#).

- **Make the student loan system more manageable for current and future borrowers by:**
 - **Cutting monthly payments in half for undergraduate loans.** The Department of Education is proposing a new income-driven repayment plan that protects more low-income borrowers from making any payments and caps monthly payments for undergraduate loans at 5% of a borrower's discretionary income—half of the rate that borrowers must pay now under most existing plans. This means that the average annual student loan payment will be lowered by more than \$1,000 for both current and future borrowers.
 - **Fixing the broken Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program by proposing a rule that borrowers who have worked at a nonprofit, in the military, or in federal, state, tribal, or local government, receive appropriate credit toward loan forgiveness.** These improvements will build on temporary changes the Department of Education has already made to PSLF, under which more than 175,000 public servants have already had more than \$10 billion in loan forgiveness approved.

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

- **Updated COVID-19 Booster Shots:** Last week, [Moderna](#) and [Pfizer](#) applied to the FDA for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of their respective updated COVID-19 booster shots. The Moderna and Pfizer booster shots have both been updated to target the BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants. Pfizer is seeking EUA of its booster for use with individuals age 12+, while Moderna is seeking EUA of its booster for use with individuals age 18+.

FDA and CDC authorization of the updated booster shots is required before they can be administered. [NBC News](#) reports that the FDA plans to authorize use of the updated booster shots around Labor Day. The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has a meeting scheduled to discuss its recommendations on September 1 (10 a.m. – 5 p.m.) and 2 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.). [Click here](#) for ACIP meeting updates and to watch the meeting online. The CDC is expected to announce its EUA authorization determination within several days after the ACIP meeting. **Once the FDA and CDC have issued authorization, additional details will be provided regarding booster eligibility and when eligible New Yorkers will be able to get the updated booster shot.**

- **FDA Issues EUA of Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted for children age 12 – 17 years:** The FDA issued Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Novavax’s COVID-19 vaccine to be administered to individuals age 12-17 years. The vaccine is a two-dose primary series given three weeks apart. The CDC is also required to issue EUA before the vaccine may be administered. For additional information, please see the [FDA press release](#) and the [FDA web page](#) on the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 Resources

COVID-19 Vaccinations

- [General Vaccine Information and Eligibility](#)
- [NYC Vaccine Finder](#): Find COVID-19 vaccine sites online or call 877-829-4692
- NYC Health + Hospitals Vaccine Sites: Call 877-829-4692 or [Schedule Online](#)
- Local and Nationwide vaccine sites: <https://www.vaccines.gov/search/>
- CVS Pharmacy: Call 800-746-7287 or [Schedule Online](#)
- Rite Aid Pharmacy: Call 800-748-3243 or [Schedule Online](#)
- Walgreens Pharmacy: Call 800-925-4733 or [Schedule Online](#)
- Request an in-home vaccination (Pfizer vaccine only) if you are an NYC resident who is homebound or age 65+. [Sign up online](#) or by calling 877-820-4692.

COVID-19 Testing

- Find [NYC Health + Hospital Testing Sites](#)
- Check the [wait time at NYC Health + Hospital Testing Sites](#)
- [NYC COVID-19 Test Site Finder](#)
- Find a [COVID-19 Test Site in New York State](#)
- Request free in-home COVID-19 diagnostic testing (for New Yorkers who are immunocompromised or age 65+) by calling **929-298-9400**

COVID-19 Treatment

- Visit the NYC Health Department [COVID-19: When You Are Sick](#) web page for information about how to access available treatment if you contract COVID-19 or Long COVID.

COVID-19 Data

- [NYC COVID-19 Alert Level System](#)
- [NYC Health Department COVID-19 Data](#)
- [NYS Health Department COVID-19 Data](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Data](#)
- Check the transmission level in your neighborhood at: [NYC Health Department COVID-19 data web page](#). Click “Transmission” and then “Your Neighborhood.”

COVID-19 Supplies

- **Order free COVID-19 at-home rapid testing kits from the federal government:** [Order online](#) or call 800-232-0233. **Important Update:** ordering free tests through this program will be suspended as of Friday, September 2. See below under COVID-19 Updates for additional details.
- **Pick up free COVID-19 at-home rapid tests from City-distribution sites.** [Click here to see a list of community sites and times when you can pick up a free rapid test kit.](#)
- [COVID.gov](#): a federal website where you can look up information on where to get free masks, as well as COVID-19 vaccinations, treatment, and testing.

COVID-19 Updates

COVID-19 case, hospitalization, and fatality rates are currently decreasing in New York City, which is welcome news, however, our case rates are still high overall. At this time, the primary variants circulating in the City are the Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants. Public health experts anticipate a fall/winter surge in case rates, as that is the trend we have experienced since the start of the pandemic.

While we continue to experience new variants and case surges, it is still important to follow COVID-19 safety measures when case rates are high to help manage community transmission and prevent severe illness. Staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations is paramount, especially with the 2022-2023 school year about to begin and the colder months approaching. **Only 42.9% of children age 0-17 have completed their primary vaccine series. 7.3% of children are partially vaccinated and 49.8% are not yet vaccinated.** There have been far more cases of severe illness, hospitalization, and death among adults, however, children have experienced these severe outcomes as well.

We have relied on COVID-19 guidance to know how to keep ourselves and others safe, as well as to be aware of COVID-19 requirements. As you may be aware, recent updates have been made to CDC COVID-19 guidance, FDA testing guidance and recommendations, and NYC Department of Education guidance for NYC public schools. There is also an important update regarding ordering free COVID-19 at-home rapid tests from the Federal Government.

- **Suspension of the Federal Government COVID-19 At-Home Rapid Test Distribution Program as of September 2:** Through this program, homes in the U.S. have been eligible to order three rounds of free COVID-19 rapid tests from the Federal Government. The program will be suspended as of September 2 because Congress has not provided additional funding to replenish the nation's stockpile of tests. **If you have not already ordered three rounds of free test kits, make sure to place your order before September 2 at: <https://www.covid.gov/tests>**

Please Note: The City Government continues to distribute free at-home rapid tests [at designated sites](#).

- **CDC Guidance Updates:** Earlier this month, the CDC issued updated COVID-19 safety guidance, relaxing certain requirements related to isolation/quarantine guidelines, testing requirements, and school settings.

Please see the resources listed below for additional details.

- [Summary of Guidance for Minimizing the Impact of COVID-19 on Individual Persons, Communities, and Health Care Systems — United States, August 2022](#)
- [Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19](#)
- [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning](#)
- [Improving Ventilation in Your Home](#)

- **FDA Updates**

- There has been ongoing concern regarding the efficacy of rapid antigen tests vs. PCR diagnostic COVID-19 test results. The FDA has issued recommendations for how to decrease the likelihood of false negative results: [At-Home COVID-19 Antigen Tests-Take Steps to Reduce Your Risk of False Negative: FDA Safety Communication](#)
- **Expiration date extensions of COVID-19 at-home tests:** Check the Expiration Date column of the [List of Authorized At-Home OTC COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests](#) to see if the expiration date for your at-home OTC COVID-19 test has been extended and how to find any new expiration date.

- **Updated COVID-19 Guidance for NYC Public Schools:** The NYC Department of Education (DOE) has released the much-anticipated COVID-19 guidance for NYC public schools, which aligns with the updated CDC guidance. Please visit the following NYC DOE website to view the guidance: [NYC Department of Education \(DOE\) Fall 2022 COVID-19 Guidance](#)

Monkeypox Updates

As of August 27, 2,986 cases of Monkeypox were confirmed in New York City. Since my last monkeypox update, the supply of JYNNEOS vaccine has increased. This is for two reasons: 1) The City and State have received additional shipments of the vaccine, and 2) The Federal Government has mandated administering the JYNNEOS vaccine [intradermally](#) instead of subcutaneously, which makes it possible to get 4-5 doses from each vial instead of 1 dose. The NYC Health Department is in the process of coordinating this transition.

At this time first doses continue to be prioritized. The NYC Health Department will inform vaccine recipients when they are able to schedule their second dose. **If you are [eligible for a first dose of the JYNNEOS vaccine](#), you can schedule an appointment online at the [NYC Monkeypox Vaccine Portal](#) or by calling 877-829-4692. Please note that individuals are not eligible to get vaccinated at this time if: 1) They had Monkeypox or 2) If they have Monkeypox symptoms.**

The NYC Health Department urges New Yorkers who develop possible symptoms of Monkeypox to consult with their health care provider and get tested, stay home, and separate from anyone in your household. If you do not have a health care provider, **call 311** or search the [NYC Health Map](#)

[The NYC Health Department Monkeypox website](#) continues to be updated with helpful prevention, vaccination, and treatment information, as well as case and vaccine data. The following resources have recently been added:

- [Cleaning and Disinfection Guidance During Monkeypox for Homes, Workplaces, Schools and Other Facilities](#)
- [Preventing and Responding to Monkeypox in Schools, Child Care Settings and After-School Programs](#)

It is important to note that treatment of Monkeypox symptoms includes a number of non-prescription remedies to help relieve uncomfortable symptoms, including taking ibuprofen, naproxen, and acetaminophen, applying cooling lotions, and taking a warm oatmeal bath. Please visit the [What to Do When Sick](#) web page for additional details.

Finally, to help prevent spread of the virus, guidance is provided on [precautions to take when sick](#) to help determine whether it is necessary to stay home and when it is appropriate to be around others.

Poliovirus Detected in New York City

As you may be aware, the NYS Health Department announced on July 21 that a resident of Rockland County contracted polio and was experiencing symptoms of paralysis. **Wastewater surveillance now indicates that the poliovirus is circulating in New York City.** It is not possible to identify in which neighborhoods, specifically, but polio is known to be a very contagious virus, which can be spread whether or not one has symptoms. There is no cure for polio, but it is preventable by getting vaccinated. Thanks to the vaccine, the last naturally occurring case of polio in the U.S. was in 1979.

The polio vaccine is safe and effective prevention against polio, which can cause mild and flu-like symptoms, permanent paralysis of parts of the body, and even death. If you or your children have not received all required doses of the polio vaccine, it is critical to do so now. If you have questions or need to get vaccinated, please contact your health care provider or your child's Pediatrician. **If you or your child do not have a primary care physician, you can call 844-692-4692 for help finding one.** [Make an appointment for children age 4 and above here.](#)

For additional information about polio and the polio vaccine, please visit the following websites:

- [Polio Vaccination: What Everyone Should Know](#) (CDC)
- [NYS Health Department Polio website](#)
- [NYC Health Department Polio website](#)

Community Update Contents:

Please click on the following links to go directly to the specified content further below in this email. If links do not work properly, you may need to click “view entire message” at the end of this page.

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State Updates

- **Health Care and Mental Hygiene Worker Bonus (HWB) Program:** New York State’s Health Care and Mental Hygiene Worker Bonus (HWB) Program has launched, providing frontline healthcare workers (with base salaries under \$125,000) bonuses for their dedication during the COVID pandemic. Learn more about the requirements [here](#).

This program establishes a fund of \$1.3 billion to be disbursed in bonuses to certain eligible frontline healthcare workers across New York. Depending on title, number of hours worked, and salary, employees may qualify for up to \$3,000 in bonuses. Employers must apply to the HWB Program on behalf of eligible employees for them to receive bonuses. A list of eligible employee titles and criteria for eligible employers can be found on New York State Department of Health’s website, [here](#).

Applications must be submitted by September 2, 2022, to claim funds for the first vesting period in the Program. Please note that the HWB Program also enables the State to penalize employers for up to \$1,000 per employee if they fail to identify, claim, and/or pay bonuses for eligible employees.

The State has established a hotline for more information about the HWB Program: (866) 682-0077. OTDA has issued guidance on how these payments will impact recipients of TA, SNAP, and HEAP, [available here](#).

- **August 30:** [Governor Hochul Launches Statewide Campaign To Highlight Funding for Child Care Providers and Families](#)
- **August 26:** [On Women's Equality Day, Governor Hochul Announces State Actions to Combat Sex Discrimination](#)
- **August 26:** [Governor Hochul Commissions New Report on Women in the Workplace in Honor of Women's Equality Day](#)
- **August 25:** [Governor Hochul Announces \\$4 Million to Increase Mental Health Workforce Diversity](#)
- **August 25:** [Governor Hochul Announces Maine and Rhode Island Join Multi-State Agreement to Propose a Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub](#)

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City Updates

- **The Women's Fund for Media, Music & Theater:** The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME) and New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) announced that applications are open for the fourth round of grants as part of the NYC Women's Fund for Media, Music and Theatre. Qualified applicants can apply for finishing grants through November 1, 2022 at www.nyfa.org/nycwomensfund.
- **August 22:** [Transcript: Mayor Eric Adams and NYPD Launch Operation "Heavy Duty Enforcement" to Target Illegally Parked](#)
- **August 19:** [Adams Administration Announces 'Project Open Arms,' Comprehensive Support Plan to Meet Educational Needs of Families Seeking Asylum](#)
- **August 18:** [Mayor Adams Removes Abandoned Outdoor Dining Sheds, Completes Initial Blitz Demolishing 24 Neglected Sheds](#)

City Council Hearings

- [Committee on Civil Service and Labor, Tuesday, September 6, 1 p.m.:](#) Maximum working hours for home care aides.
- [Committee on Aging, Wednesday, September 7, 10 a.m.:](#) Oversight – improving older New Yorkers' access to City services.

City Agency Updates

- **NYC Department of Small Business Services Update – BID Exploration Grant Deadline Extended:** **BID Exploration Grants** are available to either citywide or place-based community-based development organizations (CBDOs) that are currently working with local stakeholders interested in BID formation who have not yet completed a needs assessment survey.
 - A formal steering committee may or may not exist, and stakeholders may need more information before agreeing to formally begin the BID formation process.
 - **Up to \$20,000 per year** per neighborhood will be awarded to grantees for initial funding of BID exploration.

- BID Exploration grantees will work in a cohort-based model with technical assistance provided by SBS to undertake and complete a variety of BID formation pre- and early-stage planning tasks in preparation for a formal Formation effort.

Read the [BID Exploration Grant program guidelines](#) for more information. **Applications close at 5:00pm on Friday, September 2, 2022.** [Learn More and Apply](#)

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Other Updates

- [Hold the Plastic, Please: A Restaurant's Guide to Reducing Plastic](#): Beyond Plastics has created a thorough, practical, and inspiring guide to help any restaurant that is interested in reducing its use of plastic make key switches and communicate them effectively to existing customers, prospective customers, the media, and the general public. The guide offers practical advice, tools, resources, and case studies of two restaurants who have successfully reduced their use of plastic.
- [In The Bag: A Guide for Dry Cleaners to Move Beyond Plastic](#): Beyond Plastics has created a detailed and practical guide to help dry cleaners reduce their use of plastic to decrease their plastic waste and carbon footprint while increasing customer satisfaction and reaching new sustainably-minded customers.

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Online & In-Person Meetings, Town Halls, and Webinars

- **New York City Council Virtual Chat and Chew Session on COVID-19 and Monkeypox, Thursday, September 1, 12:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)**: Join Council Members and leading experts for a Virtual Chat & Chew Session as they discuss ways to help raise awareness and combat the spread of COVID-19 and monkeypox, as well as their stigma. For questions about accessibility, please email CEDoffice@council.nyc.gov.
[Register Here](#)
- **CB 8 Street Life Committee, Tuesday, September 6, 6:30 p.m.**: New Applications to the New York State Liquor Authority for Liquor Licenses
[Register Here](#)
- **CB 6 Environment & Parks Committee, September 6, 7 p.m.**: Report from the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation; Report on opportunities for new publicly accessible greenspace in Manhattan Community District 6; Discussion of proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budget requests
[Register Here](#)
- **Green Infrastructure Grant Program Summer Workshop, September 7, 2 – 3:30 p.m. (Virtual)**: Please join DEP at a virtual workshop on the Green Infrastructure Grant Program on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 from 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM. Attendees will learn about funding available for green roof retrofits on private property, eligibility requirements, and how to apply. To learn more about the Green Infrastructure Grant Program, visit nyc.gov/dep/gigrantprogram.
[Register Here](#)

- **Council Member Brewer’s September Housing Clinic, September 7, 6 p.m. (Virtual):** In partnership with the Goddard Riverside Law Project, this month’s topic is “Breaking Down the Basics of Holdovers.”
[Register Here](#)
- **CB 6 Bylaws Committee, September 7, 6:30 p.m.:** Discussion of bylaws Section 7 (Board Meeting Procedures); Discussion of bylaws Section 10 (Duties of District Manager), Section 11 (Internal Operation of Community Board), Section 12 (Savings Clause), and Section 13 (Amendments); Review of working draft of bylaws revisions.
[Register Here](#)
- **CB 8 Transportation Committee, Wednesday, September 7, 6:30 p.m.:** Discussion of Gaps in the Bike Lane Network within CB8 and Potential Upgrades of Painted Crosstown Bike Lanes to Protected Bike Lanes; Update on Open Streets within Community District 8 - [Open Streets - 2022 2023 School Year](#); Discussion Regarding How to Address Parking Placard Abuse; Updates from the NYC Department of Transportation.
[Register Here](#)
- **CB 6 Health & Human Services Committee, September 8, 6:30 p.m.:** Presentation from NYC Smoke-Free on their organization and the services they provide.
[Register Here](#)
- **CB8 Congestion Pricing Task Force, Tuesday, September 13, 6:30 p.m.:** Updates on the Central Business District Tolling Program (Appointments to the Traffic Mobility Review Board, Release of the Environmental Assessment); Review of Public Hearings conducted between August 25th and August 31st; Discussion of Environmental Assessment Findings & Proposed Policies Impacting Community District 8; Determination of Next Steps.
[Register Here](#)

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COVID-19 and the Economy

- [Labor force participation and employment rates have recovered for the city's women workers, but not men.](#) by L.K. Moe and James Parrott, Center for New York City Affairs, The New School – August 18, 2022

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Physical and Mental Health Care, Health Insurance, Public Health, Research

- **Staying Safe in the Heat:** Even though summer is coming to an end, we may still encounter some hot days before fall arrives. View this [New York Presbyterian resource](#) for advice on how to stay safe in the heat.
- **Breastfeeding Support Group - Brooklyn Methodist Hospital:** The group meets virtually on Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. for breastfeeding parents and their babies (up to 3 months old). [Click here](#) to view additional information and to access the Zoom link.

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Food

- **[Get Food NYC:](#)** Visit this online map to find locations that offer free food (food pantries, soup kitchens), as well as grocery stores and farmers' markets.
- **NYC Neighborhood Food Resource Guides:** Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center has compiled these resource guides to help New Yorkers find free and low-cost food resources in their community, as well as social services and additional resources for New Yorkers.
 - [NYC Food Resource Guide: Upper East Side](#)
 - [NYC Food Resource Guide: Midtown](#)
 - [NYC Food Resource Guide: Stuyvesant Town/Turtle Bay](#)

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Education, Libraries, Student Loans

- **Let's Talk Schools Annual School Fair, Tuesday, 8/30, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Wednesday, 8/31, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Virtual Event):** The virtual fair begins with the Kindergarten Admissions Panel Discussion on Tuesday at 10 a.m., and is followed by 30-minute individual school sessions for the remainder of the fair. A diverse group of independent school directors gather to talk about their schools' plans and admissions processes for the coming admission season, enabling families to meet with numerous schools in one venue and get a head start on their applications. **All sessions are free and open to the public, but you must register ahead of time.** [Click here](#) to view the school fair schedule. Register for as many school sessions as you wish below by clicking "Add to Cart" by the name of the school you're interested in.
- **SUNY Application Fees Waived:** SUNY has automatically waived application fees for every student at the 500 high schools statewide with the highest percentages of students receiving free lunch. Additionally, any student at any high school in the state who receives free lunch will also have their fees waived. [Please click here](#) for additional information and to see which schools qualify.

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MTA/Transportation

- **Masks Are Required When Riding Public Transportation:** All individuals regardless of vaccination status are required to wear a mask when taking public transportation, including subways, buses, taxis, ride sharing services, trains, and airplanes. This is a federal requirement and an important safety measure to protect yourself, others, and public health.
- **Fair Fares NYC Enrollment:** The Fair Fares NYC program continues to offer eligible New York City residents a 50% discount on subway and eligible bus fares or Access-A-Ride paratransit trips. Fair Fares enrollment is simple and can be completed online, without visiting an HRA office. [Apply for Fair Fares on ACCESS HRA!](#)

While there is no need to visit an HRA office to apply or renew, Fair Fares NYC locations have reopened and are available to help with applications, renewal applications, document upload, or to

report an issue with a Metrocard. To find a location please visit the Fair Fares [website](#). Clients will also be able to request an in-person appointment by calling 311.

Clients who need a replacement card or a refund must mail in their card to:

Fair Fares NYC

P.O. Box 7099

New York, NY 10008-7099

Clients must include their first and last name, date of birth, and Fair Fares Client ID number in the envelope with the card. All new cards and replacement cards will be mailed to the client.

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Jobs, Job Training, Residencies, Internships, Fellowships

- **Certified Teacher Assistant Training:** Have you thought about a career in education? Grow Your Own (GYO) offers training to become an NYS-certified Teacher Assistant. The 6-week program is free for participants, and covers the costs of all mandated screenings, workshops, and tests.

For more information about the training program and eligibility requirements, [please click here](#). If you are interested in applying for the GYO program, please contact Workforce Coordinator Mira Handman (mhandman@kenchild.org) for more information.

- **The Late Show With Stephen Colbert, Spring 2023 Internship Program:** The Late Show is accepting applications for its Spring 2023 internship program. This paid, in-person program provides college juniors, seniors, and recent graduates the opportunity to understand the production process of an hour-long late night variety show. [Click here](#) for additional information about internship responsibilities and eligibility requirements, and to apply.

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Resources for Older Adults & Caregivers

- **Belly Dancing Class (60+ and Older), Wednesday, August 31, 3-4 p.m.:** New York-Presbyterian's HealthOutreach program invites you to join Belly Dancing Class. (Females Only). Dance is a gentle and painless way to exercise, because it engages the mind and body in an enjoyable way that does not feel like exercise. And it causes fewer injuries because its varied movements are less repetitive in nature. [Click here](#) for additional information.

If you would like to join the class, please call NYP at 212-932-5844 or email keg9084@nyp.org to become a member of the HealthOutreach program. Must be 60+ and older to join.

HealthOutreach is a free membership program for people age 60+. [Click here](#) to view other HealthOutreach events

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Resources for Small Businesses and Non-Profits

- **PACE University SBDC Updates:**
 - **Non-Disclosure Agreements: When Should You Require an NDA, When Should You Sign an NDA, Tuesday, September 13th, 12:00pm - 1pm:** In this webinar, Dr. Jessica A. Magaldi will provide an introduction for the small business owner and entrepreneur to problems related to contracts and risk management, including the importance and significance of:
 - Risks that an NDA can help mitigate (and risks that an NDA won't mitigate);
 - Understanding key contractual provisions of an NDA;
 - How to protect your small business with an NDA; and
 - How to protect yourself as an individual who is asked to sign an NDA.[Register Here](#)
 - **Market Research to Build & Launch your Small Business, Tuesday, September 20th, 2:00pm - 3pm:** For this live webinar, the Pace SBDC has teamed up with the New York SBDC's Research Network to demonstrate how the power of Market Research Data can help build and launch your small business. Attendees will learn more about the range of market research options available to New York SBDC clients through our Research Network, including:
 - Identifying purchasing power and demographics for your business's target area
 - How your business's expenses compare to industry norms
 - Securing a targeted list of business development contacts to land new sales[Register Here](#)
 - **COVID-19 Relief Program Updates:** Empire State Development (ESD) has launched a new program as well as revised another small business pandemic recovery program. To start, the newly launched [COVID-19 Capital Costs Tax Credit Program](#) provides tax credits of up to \$25,000 to eligible businesses that made investments to comply with pandemic-related emergency orders and regulations, or to increase public safety. Additionally, ESD has amended the [COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program](#) such that demonstrating positive net profit in 2019 is no longer a requirement. To learn more about these programs and hear about all the COVID-19 relief your business could qualify for, [meet virtually with a Pace SBDC Business Advisor at no-cost](#).

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In-Person & Virtual Community Activities

- **Sutton Place Parks Conservancy (Along the river on the Promenade of the Sutton Place Parks between East 56th and East 57th Streets) Children's Storytelling, Tuesday, September 6, 11 – 11:30 a.m.:** Join librarians from NYPL's Children's Center for songs, rhymes, and favorite read-aloud books for story time that's fun for the whole family. This is for young children of all ages and ideal for caregivers with multiple-aged children. Get your library card!
- This year's second production of Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park is [As You Like It](#) runs through 9/11. Ticketing options:
 - In-person [distribution in Central Park](#);
 - In-person [lottery at The Public Theater](#);
 - In-person [distribution in the boroughs](#);
 - A [digital lottery with TodayTix](#); and
 - In-person [standby line in Central Park](#).

- **Picnic Performances at Bryant Park:** From May 27-September 17, enjoy 26 live, in-person music, dance, and theater events. [Click here to view additional details.](#)
- [Lincoln Center calendar of August activities](#)
- [NYC Parks Free Summer Movies Under the Stars:](#) view the calendar of movie viewings scheduled throughout the 5 boroughs.

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