



Dear Neighbor,

As we near the end of August, I hope you enjoy the remaining weeks of summer. I would like to acknowledge and express my appreciation of the wonderful cohort of high school and college students who interned in my office this summer: Harrison Fintz, Kate Deming, Lynn Egan, Tamar Levanon, Diya Manguraj, Helen Mancini, and Lauren Hynes. Many thanks to all of you for your great work!

It has been a while since I last shared COVID-19 updates due to the public health emergency expiring and community transmission levels remaining relatively constant. We are currently experiencing a new wave, which is causing an uptick in Coronavirus cases and hospitalizations. Therefore, I have provided resources that are available and information that is helpful to know.

Below you will also find information about virtual town halls I am holding in September, upcoming off-site constituent service hours, op-eds I wrote about Madison Square Garden's special permit application and reducing housing insecurity among college students, and other helpful community events and updates.

Stay safe and healthy. As always, if you have any questions or need assistance, please email or call my office at lkruieger@nysenate.gov or 212-490-9535.

Best,

Liz Krueger
State Senator

COVID-19 Updates

As mentioned above, we are currently experiencing a new wave of the Coronavirus in the U.S., including in New York. If you need COVID-19 testing or treatment, please see the resources below. As a friendly reminder, when community transmission rates are increasing, such as now, you can help to protect yourself and others from contracting the Coronavirus by wearing [a high-quality mask](#) in public indoor spaces, staying home if you're not feeling well, and getting tested if you experience symptoms or learn you've been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

Free COVID-19 rapid at-home test kits: If you experience symptoms, it is helpful to be able to take a test at home. The following locations are distributing free rapid at-home test kits through August 27th:

Monday-Friday, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

- **NY Public Library**, 127 East 58th Street, NY 10022

- **NY Public Library**, 328 East 67th Street, NY 10065
- **NY Public Library**, 112 East 96th Street, NY 10128
- **NY Public Library**, Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library, 40 West 20th Street #1, NY 10011
- **NY Public Library**, Epiphany, 228 East 23rd Street, NY 10010
- **NY Public Library**, Roosevelt Island, 524 Main Street, NY 10044

Thursday & Friday, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., unless noted otherwise below

- **Constance Baker Motley Rec Center**, 348 East 54th Street, NY 10022
- **Chelsea Rec Center**, 430 West 25th Street, NY 10001 (Sat., 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.)
- **Constance Baker Motley Rec Center**, 348 East 54th Street, NY 10022 (Thursday & Friday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

Please visit the [NYC Health Department Free COVID-19 Testing and Treatment web page](#) for updates. If you have COVID-19 rapid test kits at home and you are unsure whether they have expired, please visit the [FDA At-Home OTC COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests web page](#) to check the accurate expiration date.

Keep in mind that rapid tests are not as accurate as PCR tests. If a rapid at-home test provides a negative result that you suspect is inaccurate, you can also get PCR testing at community testing sites.

COVID-19 PCR community testing: Free COVID-19 PCR testing is available by appointment only at **NYC Health Department COVID-19 Express testing sites**. The Manhattan testing site is located at: RIVERSIDE C19 TEST CLINIC, 160 West 100th Street (between Columbus & Amsterdam Avenues). Appointments can be made online at the [NYC Health Department COVID-19 Express Testing web page](#).

PCR testing is also available at NYC Health + Hospital's 11 acute facilities and Gotham Health clinics for NYC Health + Hospital patients. For more information, please visit the [NYC Health Department Free COVID-19 Testing and Treatment web page](#).

COVID-19 Treatment: If you test positive for COVID-19, Paxlovid is still available at no charge. Contact your primary care physician, consult with [NYC Health + Hospitals Virtual ExpressCare](#), find a [test-to-treat location](#), or call 212-268-4319 to discuss whether you should take Paxlovid and to get the medication.

Additional Information and Current COVID-19 Wave and Variant Data: The following is a short list of helpful resources that provide additional information about the current wave and what to know if you contract the Coronavirus.

- [Riding the COVID-19 waves: 2023 style](#) by Dr. Katelyn Jetelina
- [What to Know About the Latest Covid Wave in New York City](#) (New York Times)
- [A new variant: BA.2.86](#) by Dr. Katelyn Jetelina
- [COVID-19 Data in New York](#) (NYS Department of Health)
- [COVID-19 Data in New York City](#) (NYC Health Department)

COVID-19 Fraud: The U.S. Department of Justice has issued alerts regarding a variety of COVID-19 scams to be aware of, which include:

- Marketing fraudulent and/or unapproved COVID-19 antibody tests and obtaining an individual's personal and health information;
- Scammers selling fake COVID-19 test kits and unapproved treatments through

- telemarketing calls, social media platforms, and door-to-door visits;
- Fraudulent medical billing;
- Unsolicited telephone calls and emails from individuals claiming to be IRS and Treasury employees; and
- Unemployment insurance fraud

For additional details, please visit the [U.S. Department of Justice Coronavirus Response web page](#). If you believe that you have been a victim of a scam or attempted fraud, the following are steps you should take:

- Report the incident by calling the Department of National Center for Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721 or via the [NCDF Web Complaint Form](#).
- Report COVID-19 scams to the Federal Trade Commission [online](#) or by calling 877-382-4357.
- Check your explanation of benefits and report any cases of fraudulent medical billing to your health insurance provider.

Senator Liz Krueger's Virtual Town Halls

A Simple Guide to Credit, Income Taxes, and Investing A Three-Part Financial Road Map

Tuesdays, September 12, 19 & 26 from 7 pm-8 pm

Is managing personal your personal finances challenging? Are you struggling with debt, credit card bills or taxes, or wondering how to invest for the future? If so, don't miss important conversations on debt, credit scores, income taxes, and the pros and cons of investing in stocks, bonds, and alternative assets. Experts from the nonprofit Financial Planning Association of Metro New York will provide insights on the steps you can take to improve your financial life. Each hour-long session will include a Question-and-Answer section moderated by Senator Krueger.

Tuesday, September 12 from 7 pm – 8 pm

Part I - A Guide to Eliminating Debt, Understanding Credit, Credit Cards, and Your Credit Score

- Anja Luesink, Advocacy Committee Member, Financial Planning Association of Metro NY
- Stephanie Chau, Advocacy Committee Member, Financial Planning Association of Metro NY

Tuesday, September 19 from 7 pm – 8 pm

Part II - Income Tax Planning: A brief overview of how much tax you pay and how to manage taxes effectively

- Anja Luesink, Advocacy Committee Member, Financial Planning Association of Metro NY
- Stephanie Chau, Advocacy Committee Member, Financial Planning Association of Metro NY

Tuesday, September 26 from 7 pm – 8 pm

Part III - The Power of Investing: Stocks, Bonds and Alternative Assets

- Tim Hamilton, President-Elect, Financial Planning Association of Metro NY
- Edward Hadad, Board Member, Financial Planning Association of Metro NY

You will have the option of joining online through Zoom or Facebook, or by phone.

Please note that you do not need a Facebook account to view an event through Facebook. After you register, a confirmation email with the Zoom link and the call-in information will be sent in advance of the event. Following each event, a recording will be emailed to everyone to who registered and posted on my website.

Please let us know if you plan to attend any or all of the sessions and RSVP to <https://tinyurl.com/FinancialRoadMapTownHall>.

[Click Here to RSVP for the Financial Road Map Series](#)

Upcoming Off-Site Constituent Service Hours

Our constituent services team will be out and about in the district next week. Stop by with questions, concerns, or just to say hi!

Monday, August 28, 1pm - 3pm (with Council Member Julie Menin's office)
Webster Library
1465 York Avenue (between 77 & 78th Streets)

Wednesday, August 30, 10:30am - 12:30pm
Carter Burden Older Adult Center
546 Main Street, Ground Floor Lobby
Roosevelt Island

If you unable to attend these constituent service hours, we are available to provide assistance in the District Office (generally Monday through Friday, 9:30am-5:30pm). Please call us at 212-490-9535 or email lkrueger@nysenate.gov.

My Op-Ed in the Daily News on Madison Square Garden's Special Permit Application



Last week, the New York Daily News published an op-ed that I co-authored with State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal and Assemblymember Tony Simone urging New York City to reject Madison Square Garden's pending special permit application to operate its arena in perpetuity. In the piece, we argue that the busiest transit train station in the Western Hemisphere should not be hampered any longer by an arena that creates safety hazards on the platforms and prevents us from building a station that adequately accommodates commuters and visitors from around the world. However, if New York City ultimately decides to grant a special permit, the permit should be for a maximum of three years and be contingent on MSG cooperating with the railroads to make the arena fully compatible with the planned redesign of Penn Station, transforming how it handles its loading operations, and improving access to above and below ground public spaces.

[Click Here to Read the Op-Ed](#)

My Op-Ed in City Limits on the Importance of Reducing Housing Insecurity Among College Students

CITYLIMITS

Earlier this month, City Limits published an op-ed I drafted with Ann Shalof, the Executive Director of the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter (NCS). The article describes an innovative pilot program started by NCS that provides year-round housing and support services to unhoused college students, addressing not only homelessness but also the challenges that typically accompany it. A 2019 survey of CUNY students found that 55 percent had lived with housing insecurity, and 14 percent, or about 34,000 students, were unhoused at some point while in school. It is critically important to study and replicate successful, cost-effective programs like NCS Scholars that make it easier for young people to succeed in school and get on the path to long-term stability.

[Click Here to Read the Op-Ed](#)

New Resources for Victims of EBT Card Skimming

NYC residents can now submit claims to the NYC Department of Social Services/Human Resources Administration to request the replacement of SNAP and Cash Assistance benefits stolen electronically. As a result of a change in federal law earlier this year, NYC is able to reimburse households whose SNAP benefits were electronically stolen between October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2024. Due to a change in state law, NYC can also reimburse households for Cash Assistance benefits stolen electronically on or after Jan 1, 2022.

If your benefits were stolen before August 21, 2023, you must submit a claim by October 21, 2023. If your benefits have been stolen on or after August 21, 2023, you must submit a claim 30 days from the date you discover the fraudulent transactions.

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) food benefits are not SNAP benefits and are NOT eligible to be replaced.

What is Skimming?

Electronic benefit theft (also known as “skimming” “phishing” or “card cloning”) is a type of theft where thieves gain access to your benefits electronically, even if you

never lose your EBT card. Thieves put an overlay on a store's card-swiping machine to copy EBT, credit, and debit card information. The thieves use the information to make fake cards (called "clones") and use them to steal money from accounts. Skimming can happen anywhere you swipe your EBT card. Your benefits can be stolen through skimming even if you always have possession of your EBT card.

What should you do if your SNAP or Cash Assistance benefits are stolen?

- Report Your EBT Card as Stolen Immediately: You must report your EBT card stolen, change your pin, and request a new card by calling the EBT Customer Service line at 888-328-6399 or online [here](#).
- Obtain EBT Transaction History: You will need the fraudulent transaction history to submit a claim for replacement benefits. You can obtain your transaction history by calling the EBT Customer Service line at 888-328-6399 or online [here](#). You can find the [Connect EBT User Guide here](#). You will need to obtain the following for each fraudulent transaction:
 - Date each transaction occurred
 - Name and address of the business where the transaction occurred
 - Benefit type (SNAP or Cash Assistance)
 - The amount of each fraudulent transaction
- Submit a Claim for Replacement Benefits: *The easiest and quickest way to submit a claim is online [here](#)*. To submit a claim, you will need to provide the following information:
 - Client Identification Number (CIN)
 - HRA Case Number (This can be find on HRA notices or on your Access HRA account)
 - Current Mailing Address
 - Date, location, benefit type, and amount of each fraudulent transaction
 - The date you realized your benefits were stolen

If you need assistance, you can go to your local [Benefits Access Center, SNAP, or HASA Center](#) to submit a claim. You can also submit a paper claim and mail it to: NYC Dept of Social Services, PO Box 02-9121, Brooklyn GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202

When will I receive my replacement benefits?

Once a claim is submitted, you should allow up to 30 calendar days to receive a decision notice in the mail. You should anticipate receiving your replacement benefits on your newest and most recently used EBT card at or around the time you receive your notice of determination.

You will be reimbursed the total amount that was stolen, or two months' worth of your average benefits allotment, whichever is less. Please note that there are limits on the number of reimbursement requests that can be submitted each year.

How do I prevent skimming?

- [Click here](#) to learn how to detect an overlay on a card-swiping machine.
- Change your pin frequently. If you change your PIN after every transaction, anyone attempting to steal your benefits will no longer have the correct information to access your account.
- Check your EBT transactions frequently for any suspicious transactions. If you believe your benefits have been stolen, report that your EBT card has been stolen and request a new card.
- Do not share your personal identification number (PIN) with anyone that you do not want to use your account. New York State, county, and EBT staff will never ask you to share your PIN. If someone asks you to tell them your PIN,

assume it is a scam.

- Never write your PIN on your card or the card sleeve.
- If you need someone outside your household to access your EBT benefits on your behalf, contact your local Department of Social Services about naming an Authorized Representative on your case.
- Cover the keypad when you enter your PIN on a machine.
- Never let anyone, even a store cashier, see you enter your PIN at a machine.

If you need assistance submitting a claim, my office is available to help. Please call 212-490-9535.

Temporary Service Changes on the F Subway Line Impacting Roosevelt Island



We're rebuilding tracks on the 63 St Line

F will be rerouted between Manhattan and Queens with **M** partially suspended

All times, beginning Aug 28, Mon 5 AM
through the first quarter of 2024

Most-affected stations:

- 57 St
- Lexington Av/63 St
- Roosevelt Island
- 21 St-Queensbridge



Prep work will affect **F** service
ahead of Aug 28. Visit mta.info/63stline
to see how your ride might change,
and learn about the new **F** shuttle.

Post: Upon receipt along F and M lines, full route, C/ICs, hi-viz walls facing customers at top of stairs, stairway landings, transfer passageways at mezzanine and platform levels.
sn_282_23_16x24



A special shuttle train will be operated by the MTA during this period on a single track between East 63rd Street in Manhattan and 21st Street in Queens (stopping at Roosevelt Island) at 20 minute intervals. The MTA will be also operating free shuttle buses (the Q95 and Q94) connecting Roosevelt Island with the Queens Plaza and 21 St-Queensbridge subway stations. More details are available on the MTA's website

[here.](#)

RIOC has already started operating a Red Shuttle Bus each weekend afternoon between the Roosevelt Island Tramway stop and the Manhattan Tramway stop (Southside of 2nd Avenue between 58th and 59th Streets). The shuttle departs hourly from the Roosevelt Island Tramway stop starting at 3pm, making all northbound local stops on the island to Capobianco Field (Opposite PS/IS 217). Return service from Manhattan to Roosevelt Island starts at 3:30 PM and departs hourly on the half hour from the Southwest side of 2nd Avenue, between 58th & 59th Street. The last trip from Roosevelt Island departs at 7pm. The last return trip from Manhattan departs at 7:30pm.

Attorney General's Settlement with CareCube

News from New York State Attorney General Letitia James

August Highlights

Attorney General Letitia James secured full refunds plus interest for New Yorkers who were wrongfully charged for COVID-19 tests. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) received numerous complaints about CareCube, a medical testing facility that was charging patients approximately \$125 for COVID-19 tests that should have been covered by insurance plans. An OAG investigation found that this company was improperly charging patients a fee when the company was an in-network provider with their health plans; was improperly charging for children under 18; and was providing inaccurate billing information to certain patients.



The OAG agreement with CareCube specifies that the company retain an auditor to identify all those who were wrongfully charged. When the audit is complete, the company must send eligible consumers a refund check with 9 percent interest on what they spent. The company must also pay the State \$30,000 in penalties.

The OAG encourages all consumers to report cases of suspected improper charges to the complaint helpline at **800-771-7755** or by going on line to **ag.ny.gov** and click on **“I want to File a Complaint.”**

To read more about the Attorney General's other efforts, visit our website at ag.ny.gov

Back to School Backpack Giveaway August 27th

BACK TO SCHOOL

Backpack and School Supply

Child must be present with their guardian.

GIVEAWAY

While supplies last.



**Sunday,
August 27th
2:00 PM
Good Shepherd
Plaza**



Roosevelt Island
Operating Corporation

Excelsior Scholarship Deadline Approaching

A background image showing several black graduation caps with blue tassels falling through the air against a light blue sky. In the bottom right corner, a person's hand is visible, reaching up towards the caps.

The deadline to apply for the Excelsior Scholarship is *Aug. 31!*

The Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with other student financial aid programs, allows many students to attend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition-free. The program covers tuition for eligible SUNY and CUNY students. For the 2023-24 academic year, families are New York State residents and who earned \$125,000 or less in the tax year 2021 are eligible to apply. Learn more and apply online [here](#).

Central Park Scam Alert from the NYPD

SCAM ALERT



NYPD
New York City Police Department



THE SCAM:

Suspects engage victims in a conversation regarding donations for various activities such as sports teams, school activities, or non for profit organizations. The suspects ask for monetary donations via Venmo, Cashapp, or Zelle. Suspects then say they did not receive a donation and offer to help by borrowing the victim's phone and transfer large amounts of money from victim's account to suspect's account.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Do not give your phone to anyone you do not know. If you have been a victim, immediately report it.



For more information, call the NYPD at (646) 610-SCAM (7226)

DOROT is Seeking Volunteers for Rosh Hashanah



Deliver Joy to an Older Neighbor!

Volunteer for DOROT's Rosh Hashanah Package Delivery

When you volunteer to deliver a holiday package and connect with an older neighbor for a visit or call, you can make their day -- and yours!

Give a little time. Make a BIG impact.

How it works:

- 1 Register at dorotusa.org/package-delivery
- 2 Pick up a package and get matched with an older adult
- 3 Deliver the package to the home of an older adult
- 4 Connect for a visit or friendly call!

Sunday, September 10
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Pre-registration and valid U.S. government-issued photo ID are required.

171 W 85th Street • New York, NY 10024 • dorotusa.org

DOROT's Rosh Hashanah Package Delivery was generously endowed by Mrs. Bella Wexner to honor her parents Lena and Harry Cabakoff. We are also grateful to the estate of Sanford H. Goldstein and Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York for their support of DOROT's Package Delivery programs. Thank you to Moise Safra Center for hosting DOROT's East Side Package Delivery.

FIT CitySource August 29th - 31st

CitySource



CitySource was started in 2011 to connect designers and small businesses with local fashion manufacturers in New York City. If you are looking for a pattern and sample maker, a pleater, an embroidery studio, or a full production shop, CitySource provides all the resources to make fashion products locally.

Join us for this three-day event on August 29, 30, and 31:

August 29 and 30

Virtual Tours and Seminars
9 am – 12 pm



August 31

Virtual Panel Discussions
1 pm – 4 pm



Register for this free event!

<https://citysource2023.eventbrite.com>

**Mammogram Bus Hosted by Council Member
Julie Menin September 27th**

EARLY DETECTION OF BREAST CANCER SAVES LIVES!



The *Mammogram Bus* will be here Wednesday, September 27th!

Hosted by: Council Member Julie Menin



Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center
415 East 93rd Street New York, NY 10128

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

9:00am- 4:30pm

Schedule a no-cost mammogram today!

1-877-628-9090

Eligibility:

- ❖ Woman age 40 - 79
- ❖ Currently living in New York City
- ❖ No Mammogram in the past 12 months

Our services are at no-cost.

No co-pays required and deductibles are waived. Uninsured patients also welcomed.
Medical Services provided by Multi-Diagnostic Services



Funded by a grant from New York State Department of Health Cancer Services Program Additional funding provided by the generous support of the NBCF, NYC Council, NYC DOHMH, NYS Senate, Pfizer, and individual patrons.

**Important Info for New Yorkers Covered by
Medicaid, Child Health Plus, or the Essential Plan**

The Return of Annual Renewals for Public Health Insurance Coverage

What to Know

- ▶ Anyone in New York covered by Medicaid, Child Health Plus or the Essential Plan any time beginning March 2020 has stayed covered through continuous coverage until March 31, 2023.
- ▶ The federal government has directed states to resume renewals for public insurance coverage. Some New Yorkers began receiving renewal packets in March 2023, and everyone will receive them over the next year. The first date enrollees can lose coverage if they do not renew or if they no longer qualify is July 1, 2023.



New York has laid out a timeline for resuming annual renewals as follows:

Enrolled through NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA)	Enrolled through local social services district (outside NYC)	Enrolled through NY State of Health Insurance Marketplace
Receive renewal packets beginning March 2023	Receive renewal packets beginning April 2023	Receive renewal packets beginning May 2023

What to Do

- 

Make sure your address is up to date.

 - ▶ If you have moved since March 2020, make sure your new mailing address is provided to either the applicable agency or the NY State of Health Marketplace.
- 

Watch your mail for your renewal packet and any additional notices regarding your insurance coverage.
- 

Complete your renewal form and return it right away with any required documents. Keep a copy. Watch your mail for a notice that might tell you your coverage will stop. If so, request a hearing to avoid losing coverage.

The Community Health Advocates program is available to assist anyone with the renewal process, as well as hearings. An advocate can be reached at (888) 614-5400 or www.communityhealthadvocates.org.



www.medicaidmattersny.org | info@medicaidmattersny.org | [@MedicaidMtrsNY](https://twitter.com/MedicaidMtrsNY)



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