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COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Resources for Rockland Residents

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What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, a new coronavirus which was first identified in Wuhan, China in 2019. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), coronavirus are a "large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans" including respiratory infections such as COVID-19, SARS, and MERS.[1]

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

According to the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), symptoms include a fever, coughing and difficult breathing. A person can develop symptoms between 2 and 14 days after exposure. It is believed to be spread through respiratory droplets either by coughing or sneezing, as well as on various surfaces.[2]

Health Department Contacts

New York State Department of Health - https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/form/
NYS COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 1-844-863-9314
Rockland Department of Health - 845-364-2512 or https://rocklandgov.com/departments/health/

Testing

New York has tested more individuals for COVID-19 than any other State and, on a per capita basis, more than any other country. New York has enlisted both public and private labs to handle the increased testing capacity and have created mobile testing sites including several in Rockland County. NYSDOH has published guidance on testing and any person feeling symptomatic of COVID-19 and/or has come in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 should call the **NYSDOH hotline 1-888-364-3065**. All insurance co-pays for testing must be waived.

Unemployment

There are many New Yorkers who have been impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak especially those who have unfortunately lost their job. If you recently became unemployed, you can file for unemployment benefits at: https://labor.ny.gov/unemploymentassistance.shtm. The best way to file is online; you can create an account here: https://my.ny.gov/ which will provide you with a

[1] https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses
[2] https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/faqscovid19_32120doh.pdf

NY.GOV ID needed to access the application portal. Please note, New York State is experiencing unprecedented traffic to their website during the past few weeks. Despite the heavy volume, the Department of Labor has assured that individuals will be paid all benefits due, even if you can't get through right away. Any claim filed will be backdated to the date you became unemployed.

In order to facilitate quick access to benefits, New York has waived the seven day waiting period. In addition, the federal legislation, the CARES Act, temporarily increased unemployment benefits to $600 per week. It also extends the length of benefits to four months and expands eligibility to part-time, self-employed and independent contractors.

Housing

During this difficult time, many New Yorkers are concerned about their ability to pay their rent or mortgage. Starting on March 20th, New York State has suspended all evictions of residential or commercial property, and all foreclosures for 90 days. In addition, the Governor also issued an executive order that requires mortgage companies to issue a 90 day forbearance to individuals who cannot pay the mortgage as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Payments remain due, but will be tacked on to the backend of the loan. If a mortgage lender does not adhere to this order a complaint can be filed at: https://www.dfs.ny.gov/complaint.

Employee Protections

The State Legislature approved a new law that provides paid sick leave for employees who are subject to mandatory or precautionary quarantine issued by the State or health department. These employees will be provided with job protections and sick leave. The amount of sick leave available for eligible employees depends on the size of the employer (Chapter 25 of 2020).

For more information on the new paid sick leave law: https://paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/COVID19

Small Businesses

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has declared Rockland County businesses and non-profits eligible for Economic Injury Disaster loans which can provide low interest loans of up to $2 million in capital. The CARES Act includes various programs to assist businesses including up to $10,000 short term loan advances that in some cases can be forgiven.

For more information for businesses and non-profits on how to apply for SBA assistance: http://www.sba.gov/disaster or http://www.nyssbdc.org/ or SBA Disaster Customer Hotline 1-800-659-2955

Questions

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski's office at 845-634-9791 or zebrowskik@nyassembly.gov.