

New Guidance for New Yorkers

Effective Sunday, March 22nd, at 8:00 PM, all non-essential businesses in New York City will be closed. Only businesses with essential functions will be permitted to operate, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, internet providers, food delivery, banks, financial institutions and mass transit. Businesses that provide essential services must implement rules that help facilitate social distancing. The NYPD will be out in neighborhoods across the City to ensure compliance with the policies.

The City will also enforce the following rules for non-vulnerable individuals with fines and mandatory closures:

- o No non-essential gatherings; any concentration of people outside their home must be limited to workers providing essential services
- o Practice social distancing in public (6 feet or more)
- o Individuals should limit outdoor recreational activities to non-contact.
- o Limit use of public transportation to only when absolutely necessary.
- o Sick individuals should not leave home except to receive medical care.

The City will also enforce “Matilda’s Law,” which sets the following restrictions for vulnerable New Yorkers who are over the age of 70 and/or immune-compromised:

- o Remain indoors
- o Limit outdoor activity to solitary exercise
- o Pre-screen all visitors and aides by taking temperature
- o Wear a mask when in company of others
- o Do not visit households with multiple people
- o Everyone in presence of vulnerable people should wear a mask
- o Stay six feet from other people
- o Do not take public transportation unless absolutely necessary.

Regional Enrichment Centers (RECs)

The Department of Education plans to open 93 REC sites across all five boroughs, with the first sites opening starting the week of March 23rd for

the children of essential workers. The sites will include 76 K-12 Centers and 17 Early Childhood Centers citywide. We have identified 32 sites in Brooklyn, 22 in the Bronx, 20 in Queens, 15 in Manhattan and 4 in Staten Island, with at least one site in every school district. We are contacting first responders, transit and healthcare workers, DOE staff at our Centers and Meal Hubs, ACS Frontline/Investigators still making direct contact with families, Department of Correction essential staff, Department of Homeless Services and Human Resources Administration Shelter staff and contracted staff, and Department of Sanitation essential staff. We are evaluating our capacity to serve other students. We are contacting agencies, unions and partner organizations to alert them of this opportunity and register them for a site near their home. We expect to serve approximately 57,000 students starting next week.

REC sites were chosen with accessibility as one of the main drivers, and all identified sites are either fully or partially accessible. In the best interest of our medically fragile students, we do not recommend they attend REC sites and are working with the Department of Health to ensure they have continuous medical services.

Students at RECs will engage in remote learning with their home schools, as well as art, music, and physical education. We will ask DOE and Community Based Organization employees to staff the Center, and we are grateful to the numerous DOE employees who have already offered to help staff these sites.

The health and safety of staff members remains our highest priority. All social distancing protocols will be followed, including 6 feet of distance between people. Anyone who is sick should stay home.

Meal Hubs

This week, free breakfast and lunch were available to all New York City students. Children were able to receive free meals at any site, regardless of which school they attend until 1:30 PM daily. During grab-and-go meals this week, we served approximately 560,000 meals and expect participation to rise in the coming weeks.

Starting Monday, March 23rd, three meals a day will be served to all New York City students at 439 hub sites citywide. 100 of the sites were high participation sites in Summer, 2019, and the remaining sites are schools where more than 50 percent of the students are eligible for free and reduced meals. Department of Education and DOHMH have been working to identify the most medically fragile students, and we are proud to say that we are partnering with Door Dash who will be delivering meals to students whose medical needs are so significant that they should not be leaving the home even to get meals. We have already been in contact with those families and hope to expand to more in the future. Food delivery will also be made available to children who reside in City shelters. Families search “Free Meals” on schools.nyc.gov or call 311 to find a site near them. Starting Monday, families can also text FOOD or COMIDA to 877-877 to find a meal near them. A complete list of meal hubs is available [here](#).