



Quick Takes

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
www.CIDNY.org

Manhattan

841 Broadway, #301
New York, NY 10003
212/674-2300 Tel
212/254-5953 Fax
646/350-2681 VP

Queens

80-02 Kew Gardens Rd, #100
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
646/442-1520 Tel
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CIDNY April 2020 Newsletter

An update on COVID-19/Coronavirus

We are here for you.

We've all been impacted in some way by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). While walk-in hours, meetings and workshops are canceled until further notice, we are available by phone.

To help answer your questions we've created a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) that should be able to answer many of the questions you have during this time. You can find longer and more in-depth information on our website at <https://www.cidny.org/coronavirus/>, which we will be updated with information as we receive it.

Please reach out if you are having problems following preventive measures such as having enough food to stay at home or if you are having interruptions in medical care or community-based services.

How can I reach CIDNY during this time?

You can reach our Manhattan office at 212-674-2300 and our Queens office at 646-442-1520. If we are unable to speak with you when you call, we will return all messages as soon as we can. ASL-speaking consumers can call our



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Manhattan office VP line at 646-350-2681 or our Queens VP line at 347-905-5088.

Are buses and subway service still running?

Yes, but there are changes. The subway is running on an Essential Service Plan and bus service has been operating at 75%. All subway stops are still served, and run on normal schedules during the a.m. and p.m. peaks.

However, the B, C, W, and Z lines are not running, and express service is suspended in many areas. Bus riders are being asked to board through the rear door, except for those who need extra assistance. Please check the MTA website (<https://new.mta.info/coronavirus/subway-and-bus-service>) for the latest updates.

I need assistance getting on the bus. How will these changes affect me?

People who need to use the ramp or kneelers can board through the front of the bus. This includes customers who use wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes, any other mobility devices, and those with invisible disabilities or seniors who may need the ramp or need the bus to kneel. There will be a barrier separating sections; the front section of the bus is currently reserved for customers who use mobility devices or otherwise need priority seating. Bus operators are still required to assist and secure customers who use wheelchairs.

Is Access-A-Ride still running?



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Access-A-Ride is still running. There are no shared rides. People who have been approved to travel with a personal care attendant (PCA) can continue to do so. For those who need to travel with a guest, you must share this information when booking your ride.

Participants in the on-demand pilot can continue to use the service for essential travel as usual. No new riders will be added.

Can I still sign up/schedule an assessment for Access-A-Ride?

Access-A-Ride assessment centers are currently closed. New applicants with clearly demonstrated needs such as dialysis, chemotherapy or emergency surgeries may be given interim/temporary eligibility until an assessment can be scheduled. Eligibility for current customers whose eligibility is expiring soon will be extended.

Can I shop for groceries online with my SNAP Benefits?

Yes, you can! You can now use your Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to shop online for groceries. Use your EBT card to shop securely



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for fresh produce and groceries at these participating stores in the NYC area:

- [Amazon](#)
- [ShopRite](#)
- [Walmart](#)

Note: SNAP benefits cannot be used to pay delivery fees. Make sure an online store delivers to your home address.

How do I know if a business is essential and allowed to be open?

You can find a full list of types of essential businesses here: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-issues-guidance-essential-services-under-new-york-state-pause-executive-order>. Remember, businesses like these are allowed to be open but they may choose to close on their own.

Where can I get information about schools and remote learning?

NYC schools are currently closed through April 20. It's possible that closures may be extended. For up-to-date information from the NYC Department of Education please visit: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/coronavirus>.

What do I do if I have children that receive school meals?

Three meals a day, including breakfast, will be available to all NYC children Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 1:30



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pm at locations across the city. For locations, menus and more information visit:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/food/free-meals>

What do I do if I can't pay my rent?

As of March 31, NYC residents are not exempt from paying rent. However, organizations are still working on a #CancelRent initiative. Due to an Eviction Moratorium you CANNOT be evicted. [Click here](#) for more details.

I have another question that isn't answered here. Who do I talk to?

If you have a question or concern that isn't addressed here, please contact us at info@cidny.org and we will do our best to put you in touch with someone who can help you.

2020 Census – Help Make Disabilities Count!

April is Census month. Because of the coronavirus and the need to stay home and safe, the online Census form is more important than ever. You can fill out the Census online at any time. We believe the Census will be sending out mail-in forms in May, so you can fill out the form in writing and then mail it back if you prefer.

If you've received a mailing from the 2020 Census already, you have a personal ID number. You can use that



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number to fill out the form online through CIDNY's link at www.cidny.org/census/.

Once you fill out the pledge form, you will automatically be directed to the Census form to fill out. You will need the names and birthdates of anyone living in your home as of April 1. You can also fill out the form without an ID number by clicking on the link that says, "If you do not have a Census ID, click here." This link appears just below the "Login" button.

If you have any problems understanding or filling out the form, please contact Corinne Varela at cvarela@cidny.org. She or one of our team members will get back to you to help out.

The Census will ask your name, address and birth date and whether you rent, own or are staying in the home without paying rent. You will be asked for your telephone number. You will be asked how many people live in your household and each person's name, age, birth date, sex, and their race/ethnicity. Another question is whether anyone in your household lives or stays somewhere else during the year, like at college or with a relative. You will also be asked how you are related to the person. Almost all of the questions have check boxes you fill in so you can choose from a number of answers.



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The Census does not ask for your social security number, your income or any bank account or credit card information. Do not fill out any form that asks for this information or respond to any financial or benefits questions from anyone claiming to be representing the U.S. Census.

When we all complete the Census, we will add to our representation. This matters when budgets for the city, state and federal governments are decided. We'll have an easier time making our voices heard for the issues we care about if we are counted. Join CIDNY, stay safe and get counted!

Election 2020 – Important Information

While timing and ways of voting have changed dramatically this year, the importance of the elections has not changed. In fact, it's even more important that we all vote this year since decisions about how money will be allocated or cut from our safety net will be made by the people we put into office.

The New York primary election will now be held on June 23. If you haven't registered to vote or if you need to change your address or name, please contact Monica Bartley at mbartley@cidny.org or Delva Somers at dsomers@cidny.org. They can help you register by



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sending you a registration form or helping you fill out an online registration form (you will need a NY Driver license or NY Department of Motor Vehicles non-driver's ID number). Monica and Delva can walk you through the process and can make sure you get registered by the deadline.

If you are already working with a CIDNY counselor, you can also tell them you want to register to vote and they will connect you with Monica or Delva. We will update you on any changes to voting or registering by email or through this newsletter.

All of Us Includes People with Disabilities

All of Us aims to include communities--including people with disabilities--that have been underrepresented in research to make it the largest, most diverse resource of its kind. The program seeks to enroll "one million or more" participants in a long-term study to improve the ability to



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prevent and treat disease based on individual differences in lifestyle, environment, and biological makeup, including genetics. If you missed our special guest presentation on All of Us, you can still watch it on [Facebook Live](#). People ages 18 and older, regardless of health status, are eligible to enroll. Register at All of Us: <https://www.joinallofus.org/together>.

CIDNY in the News

CIDNY has been in the news a quite a bit in the past month. Check out our coverage:

[Judge dismisses class action against MTA over subway accessibility issues](#) (AM New York Metro)

[She's Alone, 105 and in a Nursing Home Threatened by the Virus](#) (The New York Times)

[Coronavirus limbo: Seniors need to leave hospitals but some nursing homes won't let them return](#) (The Washington Post)

[In NYC Nursing Homes, Families Fear Impact Of Low-Staffing & Isolation On Their Loved Ones](#) (Gothamist)



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COVID-19 Major Threat to Some People with Disabilities (Public News Service)

In fight for safer streets, injured pedestrians eager to be heard (Brooklyn Reporter)

Sen. Gounardes Introduces Safe Streets Legislation (Shorefront News)