



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 November 2020 Newsletter

Hello from CIDNY

Hello! Thanks for taking the time to read our November 2020 newsletter. We hope you're doing well and staying safe. If you haven't voted yet and are reading this before election day, don't forget to vote! If you are reading this after election day or after you've voted, please vote our short voter survey below.

If you know someone who would like to also receive our email newsletter, please feel free to forward this or have them sign up here: <https://www.cidny.org/join-us/>.

As a reminder, due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) our offices are closed to in-person meetings until further notice. However, our programs remain available remotely (though phone and email). If you have a benefits counselor you can reach out to them directly or contact us through email at info@cidny.org or phone (Manhattan: 212-674-2300 or Video Phone: 646-350-2681 | Queens: 646-442-1520 or Video Phone: 347-905-5088). We'll be sure to let you know when anything changes.

Information in this newsletter can always change so if you have any questions please call or email us.

If you haven't already, please take a moment to Like/Follow CIDNY on social media.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CIDNYInc/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/CID_NY

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/cid_ny/

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI0eMkvGCPLfI3hzvYXZCVg>

2020 Post Election Survey

If you voted in the General Election please complete CIDNY's Post Vote Survey. Your help in identifying problems means that we can work to get them resolved. Every voter experience that we hear about – including the good ones – makes a difference in our efforts to improve our election process!

Please take the survey <https://forms.gle/UBAHwEJGDZMibcou9>. If you cannot complete it online, or have concerns that were not covered by the survey call Monica Bartley at 347/922-1358 to complete it by phone.

A Statement from CIDNY on the Confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court of the United States

We are deeply troubled by the confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court of the United States to replace Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. We are extremely concerned about the impact that her addition to the Supreme Court will have on people with disabilities. We fear that advances made, over the last forty years, can be taken from us and our lives put at risk.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett has shown a willingness to endorse government discrimination against people with disabilities. Her dissent in a decision about the public charge rule said that placing additional burdens on people with disabilities is reasonable and not in conflict with longstanding disability rights law (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act). She has also joined an opinion that exclusion of children with

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disabilities from school districts, based on their educational needs, is not in conflict with the ADA and Section 504.

Her views contrast sharply with those of late United States Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. Justice Ginsburg authored and joined in the majority on decisions interpreting the Americans with Disabilities Act and other matters that have had a profound impact on our lives. For example, she authored the decision in *Olmstead v L.C.* which held that people with disabilities have the right to receive services in the most integrated setting.

One of the first cases that Justice Coney Barrett will hear as a member of the Supreme Court of the United States is on the Affordable Care Act (otherwise known as Obamacare or ACA). Judge Barrett claims to be “not hostile” towards the ACA but her past opinions have shown otherwise. The ACA has improved for people with disabilities. It protects against discrimination in health care and on the basis of pre-existing conditions. It includes coverage for mental health, the ACA has helped people live on their own, out of institutions, and thrive.

We strongly opposed the nomination and joined other disability groups in urging the Senate to oppose her nomination. We disagree with the confirmation of Justice Amy Coney Barrett to replace Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. We expect to face the imposition of new roadblocks to equality for people with disabilities resulting from Amy Coney Barrett’s addition to the Supreme Court. We will continue to fight for the rights of people with disabilities. We will not go back.

You can read this statement online here: <https://www.cidny.org/a-statement-from-cidny-on-the-confirmation-of-amy-coney-barrett-to-the-supreme-court-of-the-united-states/>.

COVID-19: Get Tested, Get a Flu Shot, and Stay Safe

As we get deeper into late fall and winter, it’s important for those of us with disabilities and chronic conditions to continue our safety measures and to get tested for COVID-19. As the colder weather increases and we begin to close our windows, get out less if we’ve been going out, and as our family members or others we live with are staying inside more, we have to become more vigilant.

We’ve come up with a few safety reminders to help you stay safe this season.

- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When soap and running water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Practice good respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if sick.
- Get a flu shot.
- Worship safely: Avoid large gatherings, especially indoors. If your house of worship has reopened, wear a face covering, don’t share chalices or utensils and avoid close contact with others including hand shaking and hugging — wave instead. If you’re singing, you must stay at least 12 feet apart from others.

If we begin to return to activities like visiting with friends and shopping, it is essential that we continue to take steps to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

Unfortunately, we have already seen upticks in the virus in portions of Brooklyn and Queens. To see the zip codes where City has reported increased COVID-19 positives you can [CLICK HERE](#). It’s important that

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we do everything we can to keep ourselves safe and stop the spread. People living in these zip codes should make sure they are following safety precautions and should get tested.

It's also important to get a flu shot this year so that we can be as protected as possible as incidences of both the flu and COVID-19 increase. Check with your doctor about the flu shot. People over 65 can get a flu shot that is specifically made for seniors. Most chain pharmacies have flu shots available, but call first to make sure they have enough flu shots and what kind of identification you need.

CIDNY is updating the information on testing and testing sites as we get it to make sure you have the most recent information on testing sites, geographic areas where COVID-19 is spreading, and on any changes testing protocols. To find a testing location near you, you can text 'COVID TEST' to 855-48 or go to <http://nyc.gov/covidtest>.

If you would like to receive weekly updates on where the mobile testing sites will be or would like to talk to someone about testing and tracing, please email T2@cidny.org. You can also tell your CIDNY counselor that you would like to talk to someone about COVID-19. If you don't have a CIDNY benefits counselor, call 212-674-2300 and tell our receptionist that you would like to talk to someone about COVID-19. A member of CIDNY's T2 team will get back to you.

Town Hall Meeting About COVID-19 Testing and Tracing

We will be presenting town hall meetings about COVID-19 Testing and Tracing resources and support. The town hall meetings will be held from 11:00am to 12:00pm on Friday, November 13, 2020; and Friday, November 20, 2020. Town Hall meetings are captioned.

You will learn:

- safety measures for COVID-19,
- why to get tested,
- how to get tested,
- where to get tested,
- and what the test is like.

You will receive:

- a fact sheet on COVID-19 testing with links to resources,
- a fact sheet on COVID-19 tracing,
- and a list of testing sites in NYC.

RSVP

If you need an accommodation like large print, please let us know at least 14 days before the meeting.

- RSVP Tuesday, November 10, 2020 for the town hall meeting on Friday, November 13, 2020 from 11:00am to 12:00pm
- RSVP Tuesday, November 17, 2020 for the town hall meeting on Friday, November 20, 2020 from 11:00am to 12:00pm

The link to the meeting and the agenda will be sent when you RSVP by the date indicated with your email address and phone number to [Shohana Joati](mailto:sjoati@cidny.org) at sjoati@cidny.org or call 212-674-2300.



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Stay Safe From Scams

Some people unfortunately use situations like COVID-19 to take advantage of people.

If you take a COVID-19 test and your test is positive, you will likely be contacted by Tracers from NYC. Tracers will ask:

- how you are feeling;
- if you need services and support to help you stay healthy and avoid spreading the virus;
- Explain how long you need to stay inside and away from others;
- Ask questions about how you may have been infected; and
- Ask for names and contact information about people you've been in touch with in person.

Tracers will never ask:

- For your name, they'll know it when they call.
- For your Social Security Number
- For any private financial information.
- For credit card information.
- To take control of or download software to your phone, tablet or computer.

If someone asks any of these questions, hang up. Do not give out any financial information. The city has some information on how to be alert for other scams online at

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/consumers/scams.page>.

CIDNY's Action Network Meeting - WHAT IS HAPPENING OUT THERE?!

Join us on November 18, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. for our monthly CAN meeting.

Get quick updates on:

- Health policies
- Access A Ride

Be ready to tell us about your voting experience, in the November General Election.

REMEMBER: Your experiences help our advocacy efforts.

Please RSVP by calling Shohana at 212 674-2300 or by sending an email to sjoati@cidny.org and we will send you a link to the Zoom meeting closer to the date.

For Spanish please RSVP by calling Jose at 646-442-1520 or by sending an email to jlmera@cidny.org
CAN call in number +1 929 436 2866 Meeting ID: 820 2285 5013 Password: 767292

If you need an accommodation, such as large print, captioning or interpretation services, please let us know by November 11, 2020.

Reunión de la Red de Acción de CIDNY: ¿QUÉ ESTÁ SUCEDIENDO ALLÍ?!

Úñese a nosotros el 18 de Noviembre de 2020 a partir de la 1:00 p.m. para nuestra reunión CAN mensual.

Obtenga actualizaciones rápidas sobre:

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- Políticas de salud
- Access A Ride

RECUERDE: Sus experiencias ayudan a promoción nuestros esfuerzos de.

Confirme su asistencia llamando a Shohana al 212 674-2300 o enviando un correo electrónico a joati@cidny.org y le enviaremos un enlace a la reunión de Zoom más cerca de la fecha.

Para español, confirme su asistencia llamando a José al 646-442-1520 o enviando un correo electrónico a jlmera@cidny.org.

CAN llamar al número +1929436 2866 ID de reunión: 820 2285 5013
Contraseña: 767292

Si necesita una adaptación, como letra grande o servicios de interpretación, informarnos54 saber antes del 11 de Noviembre de 2020.

Navigator Network

Our Navigator program helps people enroll in health insurance on the NY State of Health Marketplace. If you need help with NY State of Health insurance (the Marketplace), CIDNY has six Navigators in Manhattan and Queens who can help you. Please call us at 917-810-2566.

CIDNY Navigators have been helping people get insurance since the Affordable Care Act began in 2014, so you have access to the best expertise available.

You can also fill out our form below with your name and phone number and someone will call you with information. <https://www.cidny.org/navigator-network-request-form/>

Support CIDNY with Amazon Smile

Do you shop with Amazon.com? Did you know that you can support CIDNY when you do?

With AmazonSmile all you have to do is shop through smile.amazon.com online or in activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS (Apple) and Android phones. Using AmazonSmile is exactly the same with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice (at no cost to you)! Just go to smile.amazon.com and select CIDNY (search for Center For Independence Of The Disabled In New York Inc) as your organization to support. It's that easy!

Other News

New York City public school families who have opted for fully virtual instruction will only have one opportunity to switch to in-person learning if they choose. You will have to make the change between Nov. 2 through Nov. 15. You can find out more in this article from Chalkbeat: <https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2020/10/26/21534955/remot-learning-switch-hybrid-nyc>. If you have questions or need assistance please contact us.

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CIDNY in the News

Take a look at our most recent news coverage below.

[A Lyft-Like Pilot Program Was Making NYC's Transit System More Accessible; Budget Cuts May Put the Brakes On It](#) (Bedford+Bowery)

[People with Disabilities Face Extra Obstacles in Voting](#) (Public News Service)

[People with disabilities fear that permanent outdoor dining will make inaccessible cities even worse](#) (The Counter)

[MTA Crosses Street With Long-Delayed Hunter College Station Elevator](#) (THE CITY)

[Task Force and Lawmakers Work to Increase Jobs](#) (Able News)

[NYC Paratransit Facing Serious Cutbacks](#) (Able News)