

## Census 2020: Everyone Counts



Given the spread of COVID-19, it is imperative that all New Yorkers take just a few minutes to self-respond to the 2020 Census from the safety of their own homes by visiting [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) or by calling 844-330-2020 (there are 12 additional numbers for service in 12 additional languages; they can be found at [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov)). Census data is critical as it helps to determine allocations for funding for CHIP and hospitals. What's more, it's how public health officials get the foundational data that experts use to plan for and manage situations like COVID-19.

## Spotlight on Safety

### Stay Healthy while Working from Home

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has been stressful for many of us. Fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming.

If you are working from home, here are some things you can do to stay mentally and physically fit:

- eat healthy well-balanced meals and get plenty of sleep
- create a routine—make a to-do list of all the things you want to achieve each day

- stay connected—with the increasing need to practice social distancing, try to keep in touch with friends and family
- find tasks to break up your day
- take care of your body—exercise and meditation are great ways to manage stress

Not everyone is able to work from home, so those of us who can must do our part in keeping each other safe. Click [here](#) for more tips.

At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility to acknowledge and fix unsafe situations, procedures, and practices. With your help, we'll not only get the job done, we'll make it safer for ourselves, our coworkers, our families, and our city. CALL (800) 897-9677 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH [EHS EMPLOYEE CONCERN](#). HELP IS ON THE WAY.

## Commissioner's Corner



**Vincent Sapienza**  
Commissioner

Dear Colleagues:

As the unprecedented challenge of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to unfold and we all acclimate to a new reality, everyone in the city and the watersheds must be monitoring their health closely. As DEP provides critical services, some of us must continue to report to work and do our part to protect public health, while many others are now completing their tasks remotely. For those that continue to report to a DEP facility, if you experience any flu-like symptoms you must stay home from work. Please seek out guidance from your supervisor or bureau administrators if you have any questions.



Thank you, as always, for your cooperation in keeping our community safe and healthy as we fulfill our critical missions. And a special thank you to those that are out in the field ensuring continuity of our operations. I will continue to share important updates as the situation evolves. Stay safe.



## Beware of COVID-19 Phishing Emails

The Office of Business Information Technology (BIT) would like to remind everyone to exercise caution in handling any email with a COVID-19-related subject line, attachment, or hyperlink, and be wary of social media pleas, texts, or calls related to COVID-19.

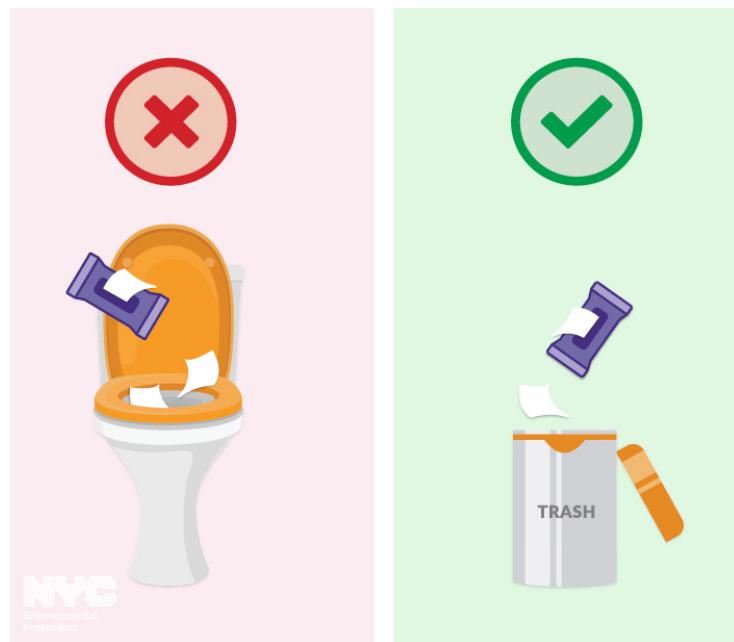
We encourage individuals to remain vigilant and take the following precautions:

- avoid clicking on links in unsolicited emails and be wary of email attachments.
- do not reveal personal or financial information in an email, and do not respond to email solicitations for this information
- be suspicious of any emails that urge you to take action and try to create a sense of urgency
- never call a phone number included in a suspicious email or reply to the sender

Remember, official BIT emails will be sent from BIT\_Communications, and will never ask for your password.

Please contact the BIT service desk at 718-595-4160 or [itservicedesk@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:itservicedesk@dep.nyc.gov) to report suspicious cyber activities.

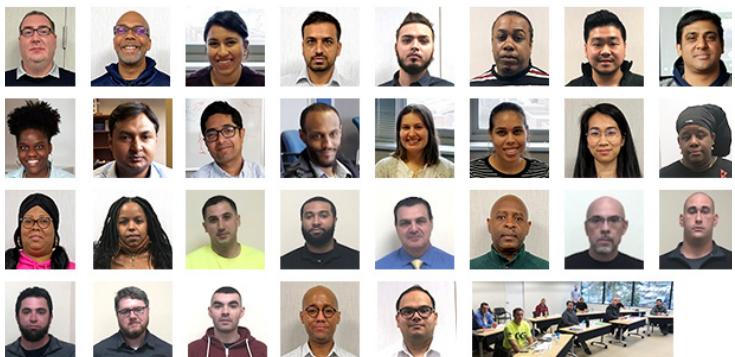
## In The News



During the COVID-19 crisis, municipalities across the country are reporting an uptick in sewage issues, particularly fatbergs blocking pipes and wipes clogging wastewater treatment plants. DEP Communications Director **Ted Timbers** spoke with Business Insider about how the agency is tracking this issue closely.

Read the full story from [Business Insider](#).

## Welcome Aboard!



On Monday, 30 new employees attended orientation and followed social distancing guidelines while receiving an overview of the department from Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza** and HR Generalist **Harold Kim**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Arifa Akter, Shirley Chen, Nyleen Euton and Rebecca Peet** with BEPA; **Aazaad Ali, Steven Allard, Kenneth Blackwell, Paulina Derkacz** (not pictured), **Sonia Felder, Thai Hua, Lawrence James Jr., Jeremy Martinez, Brandon Raghobir, Tiffany Ray and Myriah Rose** with BWSO; **Nurelen Befekadu** with CFO; **Justin Berke, Nicholas Burgher, Nicholas Diana, Allen Keator, Elliott Lamboy, Claude Riviere and Nicolas Santiago** with BWS; **Geraldine Brevil, Sarder Hasan, Mohammad Iqbal and MD Mamunujjaman** with BWT; **Larry Carpenter Jr. and Fred Lewis** with BCS, and **Luis Pombo** with BIT.

## IDNYC Postpones Lefrak Visit



NYC officials continue to stress the importance of social distancing due to COVID-19. In an effort to keep DEP and the community safe, IDNYC has postponed the upcoming visit to the Low-Rise Building at Lefrak Headquarters that was originally scheduled for Wednesday, March 25. It will be rescheduled for a later date.

Please feel free to contact the Office of EEO & Diversity at [depdiversitycommittee@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:depdiversitycommittee@dep.nyc.gov) with any questions or concerns.