

From: Aldana-Galdamez, Miriam (DCA)
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 5:15 PM
Cc: Rahman, Tanjila (DCA)
Subject: DCWP Updates on NYC's Response to COVID-19: Resources and Information on Important Laws
Attachments: Testing Frequency FAQ One-Pager14.pdf; Complying-with-NYC-Workplace-Laws-During-COVID-19_DCWP.pdf
Importance: High

Dear Community Partner:

As you are aware, the City is currently responding to the novel coronavirus, and we want to make sure that you are provided with the most up-to-date information.

NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection:

Get DCWP Alerts and Information During COVID-19 Crisis: For the latest information to all of our COVID-19 resources listed below and in additional languages, please visit: nyc.gov/DCWPAAlerts

NYC is in Phase 4 of Reopening. Learn more about important guidelines and resources available to workers under Phase 1, 2, 3 and 4: www.nyc.gov/workers

Workplace Guidance: NYC Workplace laws are still in effect. New amendments to the NYC Paid Safe and Sick Leave Law will take effect in 2 phases. Learn more about worker rights and employer responsibilities here: www.nyc.gov/workers

Indoor Dining: As of September 30, 2020, limited indoor dining is permitted in NYC. For more information on guidelines for indoor dining and additional industries, visit: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/workers/NYC-Business-Reopening-AdditionalIndustries-WhatWorkersNeedToKnow.pdf>

Worker Protection Hotline: Call 311 and say "Worker Protection Hotline" if you have questions about reopening, health, and safety guidelines for the workplace, or to report an employer that is not following reopening requirements.

NYC Free Tax Prep: The final deadline to file a 2019 tax return was October 15, 2020. If you were required to file a return, NYC Free Tax Prep can assist you, if you meet income requirements; however, be aware that late filing penalties and late payment penalties may apply.

We urge eligible New Yorkers to use NYC Free Tax Prep services including, In-person Tax Prep, Drop-off Service, Virtual Tax Prep, and Assisted Self-Prep to file taxes for FREE.

- New Yorkers who earned \$64,000 or less in 2019 are eligible for In-Person and Virtual Free Tax Preparation with a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)/Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) certified preparer.
- New Yorkers who earned \$69,000 or less in 2019 are eligible for free Assisted Self-Preparation.

Filers will need access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone and a stable internet connection for virtual free tax prep services. Learn more: www.nyc.gov/taxprep

NYC Financial Empowerment Centers: Our professional financial counselors can help New Yorkers manage their bills and credit amidst the coronavirus crisis, understand student loan repayment options, and more in a confidential setting. For the health and safety of our providers and clients, most Financial Counseling sessions will be conducted over the phone. Book an appointment at www.nyc.gov/talkmoney

Have a Student Loan? Has your income or family size changed?: Important information about payments and resources can be found at www.nyc.gov/studentloans where you can learn about Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) plans that can lower your monthly payments. Book an appointment for free financial counseling to www.nyc.gov/talkmoney

Have You Received Your \$1,200 Economic Impact Payment from the IRS? If you do not usually file taxes because your income falls below \$12,200 (single) or \$24,400 (joint/family), you must act by November 21, 2020 to get your Economic Impact Payment (stimulus payment) this year. NYC Free Tax Prep partners can help New Yorkers register. Download Economic Impact Payments Poster here (available in 11 languages) and learn more at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/consumers/economic-impact-payments.page>

Debt Collection: DCWP has created a joint [letter](#) template that you can fill out and mail (required by federal law) so debt collectors can't contact you until the State of Emergency in New York City has ended. More information found at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/consumers/DCA-Template-Cease-Debt-Collection-Communication-Letter-for-Consumers.pdf>

Price Gouging: Please be advised that effective June 26, 2020, DCWP has issued a permanent rule that makes price gouging illegal for any products or services essential to health, safety, and welfare during a declared state of emergency. Learn more: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/media/Face-Masks-in-Short-Supply-Due-to-COVID-19.page>

COVID-19 Scams and Safety Tips: Important Information that describes common COVID-19-related scams and tips to stay safe. <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/consumers/COVID-19-Scams-and-Safety-Tips-English.pdf>

Questions about Funeral Planning During COVID-19? : Important Information for New Yorkers who have lost loved ones can be found here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/consumers/Funeral-Planning-During-COVID-19-English.pdf>

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:

Recent Guidelines and Tools: All the latest guidance from face masks to how to properly document your eligibility for NYS Emergency Paid Sick Leave can be found here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page>

NYC Human Resources Administration:

Cash Assistance: You may be eligible for an emergency cash grant if it will meet certain special needs. For more information call HRA's Infoline at 718-557-1399 or please visit: <https://a069-access.nyc.gov/accesshra/>

Funeral and Burial Guidance and Assistance: HRA will provide financial assistance to individuals who need assistance to meet qualifying funeral expenses. For more information, visit: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/burial-assistance.page>

Food Resources:

The City has created the GetFoodNYC Emergency Home Food delivery program to provide food for coronavirus (COVID-19)-vulnerable and food-insecure New Yorkers not currently served through existing food delivery programs. Find out more information [here](#).

COVID-19 Testing:

The City is continuing to expand capacity for COVID-19 testing. For more information, please visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page>