

# CORONAVIRUS BULLETIN

## Weekly Update for MTA Employees



Week of March 16<sup>th</sup>

**Below is a weekly update of information and news related to the MTA's efforts around COVID-19. We will continue to provide you with regular updates that will enable you to work effectively and remain safe.**

**March 18:** MTA provides a list of telecommuting guidelines to help employees and managers more effectively work at home.

**March 19 and March 21:** MTA provides information regarding childcare opportunities for employees.

We have good news to share – boards of education in counties in MTA's service territory will start offering childcare options to workers deemed "essential" by New York State. We know each of you is essential, and the State of New York has also recognized our workers as essential.

Childcare options vary by county and district, so please visit the website below relevant to your school district and contact them directly with any further questions.

### **Dutchess & Putnam:**

Child Care Council of Dutchess and Putnam, Inc.

Website: <https://www.childcaredutchess.org/family-resources/findchildcare.html>

Phone: (845) 473-4141

Email: [jwagner@childcaredutchess.org](mailto:jwagner@childcaredutchess.org)

### **Nassau**

Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc.

Website: <http://www.childcarenassau.org/>

Phone: (516) 358-9250, ext. 11

Email: [JBarbieri@childcarenassau.org](mailto:JBarbieri@childcarenassau.org)

### **Orange:**

Child Care Council of Orange County, Inc.

Website: <https://www.orangecountygov.com/1938/COVID-19-Important-Questions-About-Servi>

Phone: (845) 294-4012

Email: See contact form on website.

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### **Rockland:**

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc.

Website: <http://www.childcarerockland.org/>

Phone: (845) 425-0009, ext. 417

Email: [janeb@rocklandchildcare.org](mailto:janeb@rocklandchildcare.org)

### **Suffolk:**

Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc.

Website: <http://www.childcaresuffolk.org/>

Phone: (631) 462-0444

Email: [irojas@childcaresuffolk.org](mailto:irojas@childcaresuffolk.org)

### **Westchester:**

Click [this link](#) for a list of all school districts providing child care. For those who are residents of the five boroughs of New York City, here again is what you need to know.

### **New York City:**

New York City has launched a new program that will provide all MTA employees who reside in NYC, and whose children attend school in the city, with free childcare at Department of Education locations. For our community members who are serving in these vital roles and have no other means of childcare, the New York City Department of Education is setting up Regional Enrichment Centers (RECs). RECs will open on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> and operate from 7:30am to 6:00pm (Monday-Friday), and will ensure that students have access to remote learning as well as various art, music, and other activities. Program details include:

- Program will begin on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and centers will be open 7:30 am to 6:00 pm
- Regional centers will be in every school district in New York City and include early childcare through K-12
- Eligible for enrollment: 3-18 years of age and must be NYC residents
- If your child is a NYC resident and you would like to enroll in one of these centers, complete this form: [REC Enrollment Form](#)
- Please complete the form for each child you plan to enroll. You will then receive an email confirming your child's enrollment. Please do not email the DOE as they will not be able to respond to individual inquiries directly
- Remote instruction will be offered, 3 hot meals served a day; art, music and physical education will be provided
- Centers will be operated by dedicated Department of Education staff, as well as personnel from the department's partners at dozens of Community-Based Organizations
- Social distancing protocols will be followed at all regional centers, including maintaining 6 feet of distance between people and limiting classrooms to less than 12 students. Sites will be regularly cleaned and disinfected

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**March 19:** If you are working remotely, take a moment to update your office voicemail greeting to inform callers how to best reach you - via a cell phone or alternate phone number. You may want to update your email signature with this info as well. It is highly recommended that you modify your voice greeting rather than attempt to forward your office phone to another number.

**March 19:** MTA leadership held a livecast COVID-19 Town Hall Information Session with employees. To view the town-hall meeting, click [here](#). The Q&A can be found on *MTA Today*. We have received hundreds of questions, and we are working to answer as many as we can. We will update the list of questions on MTA soon. Look out for information on future town-hall meetings.

### MTA In The News:

[New York Post: A 'thank you' to those still showing up for work during coronavirus pandemic](#)

[New York Daily News: Thank you: A salute to all those workers who keep soldiering on in a coronavirus-paralyzed city](#)

[New York Daily News: NYC public transit needs a federal rescue: Coronavirus devastation will require billions from Washington](#)

[New York Times: M.T.A., Citing Huge Drop in Riders, Seeks \\$4 Billion Virus Bailout](#)

[Newsday: MTA runs full service, 'staying open for those who need us'](#)

**Tips:** Grab & Go breakfast/lunch is available for any student at the entrance of every Department of Education school building from 7:30am-1:30pm. More at [www.schools.nyc.gov/](http://www.schools.nyc.gov/). To sign up to receive text updates from NYC regarding COVID-19, text COVID to 692692.