



Dear Friends,

Last week's newsletter came right after the CDC had announced new guidelines regarding masks and social distancing for those who are fully vaccinated. I am very glad that New York is now following the CDC's recommendations. We have made tremendous progress on the vaccine front, with more than 18 million vaccine doses administered and a positivity rate under 1%.

As I mentioned last week, **if you are age 12+ and have not yet been vaccinated, there is no better time!** Under the guidance, once you are fully vaccinated, you will no longer need to wear masks in most situations. Meanwhile, getting a vaccine has never been easier. [All state sites are walk-in](#) (many of them dispensing the Pfizer vaccine, approved for ages 12+), as are many pharmacies. For anyone 18+ interested in receiving the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, there will be a [pop-up vaccination site at Westchester Airport](#) next week, first come first served.

**Let's get to herd immunity!** If you have any problem identifying where to go to get vaccinated, please don't hesitate to [reach out to my office](#) and we will get you the information you need.

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## **[New Guidelines on Mask Use and Social Distancing](#)**

Beginning this past Wednesday, [New York adopted](#) the [CDC's guidance on mask use and social distancing](#) for fully vaccinated individuals. Fully vaccinated individuals are defined as those who are two weeks out from the second Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or two weeks out from the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

As per CDC guidelines, fully vaccinated individuals will no longer be required to wear masks indoors or outdoors, except for the locations listed below. Businesses that no longer must require fully vaccinated people to wear masks include "retail, food services, offices, gyms and fitness centers, amusement and family entertainment, hair salons, barber shops and other personal care services, among other settings."

Those who are not fully vaccinated are required to continue wearing masks.

As per CDC guidance, masks and social distancing are still required in the following locations/situations until more New Yorkers are fully vaccinated:

- Pre-K to 12 schools
- Public transit
- Homeless shelters
- Correctional facilities
- Nursing homes
- Healthcare settings

Meanwhile, the capacity limits on most businesses are now lifted, only limited by the space available for patrons (or parties of patrons) to maintain 6 feet of social distancing when the vaccination status of patrons is unknown. If the business requires proof of vaccination status (allowed through paper form, digital application, or the state's [Excelsior Pass](#)), the capacities may be eliminated entirely, as social distancing is no longer required.

Regarding small, medium and large-scale events, I would encourage you to review the [guidelines](#) put out by the Governor's office.

**Please note, [as per federal guidelines](#), businesses can choose to continue to enforce the wearing of masks and social distancing at their discretion.**

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## **[It's Time to Study Burying the Utility Lines](#)**

During my time as Bedford Town Supervisor, we dealt with an incalculable number of utility outages. In this day and age, electricity, the internet, and telephones are not just a convenience. Our lives, indeed our safety, are built around their accessibility.

I frequently would get the question: what are we doing to bury the power lines? Especially with the increasing number of storms brought on by climate change, doing so is beyond logical. However, the utility companies have said that to do so would cost billions of dollars and that the extra costs would be passed on to the consumer to the tune of thousands of dollars a year.

The truth is, **we have never done a study on the feasibility and cost of burying the utility lines in New York**, and the time has more than come. That is why I am a proud co-sponsor of [A02330A](#), which "[d]irects the public service commission to study the feasibility and the costs of burying all or most of the electrical, telephone and internet transmission lines in New York state and to publish and deliver a report of its findings to the governor and the legislature, and requires new electrical, telephone and internet transmission lines to be buried underground."

**It is time to do an analysis of the cost of burying the utility lines versus the cost and inconvenience to both individuals and businesses that result from continued outages.** New York's utility infrastructure needs to be brought into the 21st Century, and this study hopefully will be a first and important step in the right direction.

The legislation has passed the Assembly and is now over with the Senate, where it too is expected to pass. Stay tuned!



*Click above to view the remarks I made  
in support of a study to look at the feasibility and cost of burying New York's utility lines.*

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## [Child Tax Credit Payments to Begin July 15th](#)

The U.S. Treasury and IRS [announced this week](#) that **payments on the temporarily-expanded federal tax credit, provided for in the American Rescue Plan, will begin on July 15th**. Households representing more than 65 million children (88% of U.S. children) will qualify for this refundable tax credit.

Eligible families will receive a payment of up to \$300 per month for each child under age 6 (with a maximum annual credit of \$3,600 per child) and up to \$250 per month for each child between ages 6 to 17 (with a maximum annual credit of \$3,000 per child). The benefit begins to phase out beginning at incomes of \$150,000 for married individuals filing jointly and \$75,000 for single parents. The regular tax credit of \$2,000 (minus any payments received) remains in place for individuals whose income remains below \$200,000 for individuals and \$400,000 for couples.

Payments will be made via direct deposit, paper check or debit cards beginning July 15th and continuing on the 15th of each month through December. In addition to receiving these monthly payments (which represent the credit for the first half of the tax filing year 2020), recipients will receive the rest of their benefit as a credit next year when they file their 2021 tax returns.

Parents can also opt out of the monthly payments and instead receive the full, expanded credit on their tax returns next year. To learn more, visit: [www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/advance-child-tax-credit-payments-in-2021](http://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/advance-child-tax-credit-payments-in-2021).



**Most New Yorkers with children 17 and under will soon receive monthly payments**

The federal American Rescue Plan provides monthly payments through an expanded Child Tax Credit from July through December to low- and middle-income families who qualify. Single parents making up to \$75,000 per year and joint filers making up to \$150,000 per year are eligible for the full payment of \$250 per child age 6 and over and \$300 per child under age 6.

The infographic features a green background with white text and three circular images of diverse families: a woman with two children, a man with a young child, and a man with a baby.



**La mayoría de los neoyorquinos con niños de 17 años o menos pronto recibirán pagos mensuales**

El Plan de Rescate Estadounidense federal provee pagos mensuales a través del ampliado Crédito Contributivo por Hijos desde julio hasta diciembre para las familias de ingresos bajos y medianos que califiquen. Los padres solteros que ganan hasta \$75,000 por año y los contribuyentes conjuntos que ganan hasta \$150,000 por año, son elegibles para un pago completo de \$250 por niño de 6 años o más, y de \$300 por niño menor de 6 años.

The infographic features a green background with white text and three circular images of diverse families: a woman with two children, a man with a young child, and a man with a baby.

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## [Congratulations to the Newly-Elected \(and Re-Elected\) School Board Members](#)

This past Tuesday, schools throughout New York held their budget and school board votes. The budgets in all seven school districts in the 93rd AD passed, and **I would like to congratulate the newly-elected and re-elected members of each of the school boards:**

- *Bedford Central School District:* Steven Matlin, Robert Mazurek
- *Byram Hills Central School District:* Scott Levy (re-elected), Petrie Verma
- *Chappaqua Central School District:* Cailee Hwang
- *Harrison Central School District:* Kelly Kozak, Dennis DiLorenzo (both re-elected)
- *Katonah-Lewisboro School District:* Marjorie Schiff (re-elected), Elana Shnyer
- *North Salem Central School District:* Paul Giamundo (re-elected), Brian Lange
- *White Plains School District:* James Hricay, Cayne Letizia, Rose Lovitch (all re-elected)

Wishing you the best in your upcoming terms. Thank you for your service to the community!

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If there are any issues that you would like to see covered in a future newsletter, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [burdickc@nyassembly.gov](mailto:burdickc@nyassembly.gov) (or simply reply to this email). **Please also follow me on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the most up-to-date information.**

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can [find them here](#).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Burdick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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