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[*End of State of Emergency in New York*](#)

Governor Cuomo announced that New York has ended the state disaster emergency declared on March 7, 2020 effective after Thursday, June 24, 2021.

Federal CDC guidance will remain in effect, which includes masks for unvaccinated individuals, as well as all riders on public transit and in certain settings, such as health care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, and homeless shelters. State and local government health departments will still be able to ensure mask rules and other health precautions are adhered to in those settings.

[Read more here.](#)

[You can read the full updated mask guidance from the Department of Health here.](#)

[Statement on the End of the Alcohol Beverage To-Go and Delivery Authorization](#)

The recent decision to end the state of emergency declaration by the Executive brings relief to some individuals and organizations, but the lack of notice has resulted in shock and financial strain on struggling small business restaurants in our region and throughout New York State due to the sudden halt of the alcohol delivery and to-go authorization. I am disappointed that the Legislature did not pass legislation before the end of the legislative session to extend the alcohol to-go authorization. I am a cosponsor on the Assembly bill that is sponsored by my colleague Assemblymember Patricia Fahy and have advocated to move the legislation forward.

I am shocked that there was literally one day notice on this change which exacerbates the difficulties that small businesses continue to face and who expected the current Executive Order to expire on July 6th. Many of these small businesses had already procured additional inventory for the 4th of July holiday. Unlike when they had to scramble last year prior to St Patrick's Day in 2020 due to the pandemic, this hardship was avoidable and preventable.

If the Legislature should be called back to Albany for a special session, I will be expecting a one-year extension of alcohol to-go to be on the list of important issues that the Legislature should act on. The proposal is straightforward in regard to conditions, limits, and time frame and will not negatively impact other industries.

This is not the way to treat small businesses, especially our restaurants who were profoundly impacted by the pandemic and are an integral part of our communities.

[Essential Worker Childcare Scholarship](#)

The Office of Children and Family Services will be administering \$25 million in funds from the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan to provide child care support for children of essential workers.

The Essential Worker Scholarship is available to residents of New York State and will be awarded weekly through payments made directly to child care providers on the parents' behalf.

Parents will be responsible for paying any tuition amount that is greater than the market rate.

[Learn more and apply for this scholarship here.](#)

[Take Down of Capital Region Drug and Gun Trafficking Ring](#)

Earlier this week Attorney General James announced the indictment of 47 individuals for their roles in two major drug and firearm distribution networks that trafficked heroin, cocaine, oxycodone, and firearms in the Capital Region.

Thank you to New York State Attorney General James, the FBI Safe Streets Task Force, and the Albany Police Department for their work to arrest these individuals who have caused significant trauma, not only to the families who have lost a loved one, but also to the many individuals and families who live in our neighborhoods and have concerns for their own safety.

These indictments will bring those who caused great harm to our community to justice.

[Read the full press release for more information here.](#)

[From Troy to Troy Murals](#)



It was great to attend the The Arts Center of the Capital Region ribbon cuttings today for the From Troy to Troy murals.

Thank you to Artists Eugene O’Neill and Toast Halasz for completing this amazing installation in Downtown Troy.

Read more about the murals and the artists here:

<https://www.renscochamber.com/events/ribbon-cutting-arts-center-capital-region-troy-troy->

[murals?fbclid=IwAR3s-oUN2HYVCPolh6i9_F2rrm01NT3djg8ehq-ZYO3YTSG9ncWw8PZ2HJY](https://www.flickr.com/photos/14911177@N00/5248888888/)

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<http://www.wartoaster.com/the-mural.html>

<https://linktr.ee/ywcagcr>

Photo credit: Troy, NY - City Hall

[COVID-19 Mortgage Relief](#)

If you're a homeowner with an FHA-insured mortgage and need assistance, visit the COVID-19 Resources page. Mortgage relief is also available for other government-backed mortgages on CFPB's Coronavirus Resources webpage.

See the below sites for more information on programs that may be available to you:

- https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/housing/sfh/owning/covid19resources?fbclid=IwAR1-wIMgdilulc8tFwNekP0mUBcRorojEOTaeb3ihPXHYKi6hpBp419ABwA
- <https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus/homeowners>
- <https://www.hud.gov/.../IACOV19FBFactSheetConsumer.pdf>

[Summer Reading Program](#)

The Summer Reading Challenge helps kids learn and discover new worlds. As the school year ends, it is time to kick off the annual NYS Assembly Summer Reading Challenge, held in partnership with New York State Libraries <https://www.summerreadingnys.org/>

Between spending time with family and playing outside with friends, summer is the perfect time to sit down with a good book. The theme for the 2021 challenge is “Tails and Tales” to encourage children to learn more about their favorite animals and explore the world around them.

Each participant will pledge to read for at least 15 minutes each day for at least 40 days during the months of July and August. Young readers who complete the challenge will receive the Assembly Excellence in Reading certificate from their local library to recognize their efforts and dedication.

Contact your local library for more information.

[New York State Parks Camper Rewards/Loyalty Program](#)

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and Department of Environmental Conservation announced the first-ever Camper Loyalty/Reward Program for overnight stays at state campgrounds across New York. The introduction of the new Loyalty program coincides with the opening of the nine-month online reservation window for the 2022 Camping Season.

The new Loyalty program will allow visitors to earn points for every dollar spent on overnight accommodations and redeem the points toward use fees on future stays. Points are awarded upon departure for all camping stays, so campers can earn points on already-booked reservations and any new reservations as soon as they enroll in the program, either online or by phone.

[Learn more and enroll here.](#)

[Make it Upstate Downtown Albany Market](#)

Make It Up State has launched their new weekly market at SUNY Plaza in downtown Albany!

The market will happen every Thursday from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and will showcase live music, art, local cuisine, and locally produced gifts and goods with a focus on health and wellbeing.

Check out their Facebook page for more information here:

<https://www.facebook.com/MakeItUpState/>

[Rensselaer County All Recovery Meeting Information](#)

The Rensselaer County All Recovery Group will be hosting weekly meetings to offer a place where people can share their addiction recovery experiences and how recovery has changed their life. Groups are facilitated by Certified Peer Support Specialists, also known as “Recovery Coaches” all of whom are people in long-term recovery.

These meetings are open to everyone, regardless of the uniqueness of their pattern or patterns of addiction. It is a way for people in all types of recovery and family member allies to come together and learn from each other.

The meetings are held every Tuesday 6:30-7:30pm Via Zoom

Meeting ID: [968 6057 1391](#)

Or Dial-in

[+1 646 558 8656](tel:+16465588656) US (New York)

For help contact the Rensselaer County Peer Engagement Specialist Jesse Chapman CRPA
@ [518-925-8067](tel:5189258067)

[Certified Recovery Peer Advocate Training Course](#)

If you are looking to become a Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) read below for more information on an upcoming training class. CRPA's use their lived experience with substance use recovery as a basis for offering support to individuals seeking linkages to care, harm reduction services, and/or exploring pathways to recovery. NYS CRPA (Certified Recovery Peer Advocate) Certification requires a minimum of 46 hours of training.

This program offers:

- Recovery Coach Academy (30 hours)
- Ethical Consideration for Recovery Coaches (16 hours)

Location: Hudson Valley Community College

Gene Haas Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CAMS).

80 Vandenberg Ave, Troy, NY 12180

Dates: July 21st-23rd and 26th-30th 2021

Time: 9:00am- 4:00pm

To register contact: Jesse Chapman CRPA, NYSPS Peer Engagement Specialist

Rensselaer County Department of Mental Health

[\(518\)270-2857](tel:5182702857) or jchapman@rensco.com

[Child Development Associate Preparation Course Application](#)

There's still time to register for the Child Development Associate Preparation Course at the Capital South Campus Center that will begin on July 13th. The YMCA, Capital Region BOCES, and Brightside Up are collaborating to offer this workforce training program.

The class will meet in-person on Tuesdays 5:30p - 8:30p at the Capital South Campus Center, 20 Warren Street, Albany, NY 12202.

Seating is limited and the last day to apply is Monday, June 28th. All applicants will be notified by June 29, 2021 of acceptance status. Child care is available for children up to age 4.

If you would like to confirm that your application has been received - email info@brightsideup.org.

[To learn more or register visit here.](#)

Office Update

The Capitol and Legislative Office Buildings are now open to the public. For your convenience our office will still be offering virtual meetings but will also be open for scheduled in-person meetings.

We will be following CDC guidance regarding mask wearing.