



# Murray Hill

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## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## Information that may be of interest...

**March 7, 2022**

This information is provided by The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association. We are sharing it as a service to our members. If this notice does not interest you, please disregard it.

Please share this email with a friend, neighbor or colleague. You can sign up for these emails at [www.murrayhillnyc.org](http://www.murrayhillnyc.org), scroll down the Also Happening column.



**National Consumer Protection Week**  
March 6 – March 12

**Tell the FTC your story at:**

**ReportFraud.ftc.gov**

**ReporteFraude.ftc.gov**

The banner features a colorful illustration of a city skyline on the left and a farm with a red barn and a windmill on the right, set against a green landscape.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

**#NCPW2022**



**Photo gallery**



A glimpse through the window at Brickworks Design Studio(Glen-Gery) gala opening on March 3 with an Art Deco theme (formal attire). Brickworks is located at 445 5th Avenue (39th Street), Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm, 914-215-7844, [glengery.com/locations/brickworks-design-studio-new-york-city](http://glengery.com/locations/brickworks-design-studio-new-york-city), [NewYorkDesignStudio@glengery.com](mailto:NewYorkDesignStudio@glengery.com).

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## Transportation advisories

### **Pershing Square East project (HWPLZ015M)**

Work has begun Monday to Friday, to excavate test pits at the *intersection of E.41st St. and Park Ave. (east side), and Park Ave. between E.41st St. to mid-block (east side)*. Please visit [murrayhillnyc.org](http://murrayhillnyc.org) Traffic Updates section to see the latest work notices.

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### **M15 Bus Stop at 1st Avenue and East 31st Street has moved temporarily**

On March 3rd the M15 Bus Stop at 1st Avenue and East 31st Street moved to the crosswalk north of 31st Street near the entrance to NYU Langone's Main Lobby. This is a temporary move during construction at NYU Langone.

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## Scam alert!

## Aid to Ukraine

There are MANY online and phone scams related to 'raising aid for Ukraine.' Please check that the organization is legitimate, before giving money. UNICEF, Doctors Without Borders, International Rescue Committee and other established aid organizations are mobilizing to help Ukraine. People who are older, financially stable, human-rights minded, and active on-line and on the phone are the #1 target for scam calls and emails of this kind. Learn more at [hconsumer.ftc.gov/blog/2022/03/giving-help-ukraine-get-your-money-where-you-mean-it-go](https://hconsumer.ftc.gov/blog/2022/03/giving-help-ukraine-get-your-money-where-you-mean-it-go).

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## Pandemic updates

The home page on the NYC Department of Health website shows the NYC transmission rate level as **Low**. [www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/index.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/index.page).

Note: This is not consistent with data shown on the DOH data pages. We have asked DOH to explain the data discrepancies.

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### [As COVID Cases Plummet and Vaccination Rates Reach New Heights, Mayor Adams Announces Next Phase of Pandemic Response](#)

March 4, 2022, Press release from the Mayor's office

Mayor Adams announced the suspension of the Key to NYC program and the removal of indoor mask mandates in city public schools for K-12 students.

Beginning Monday, March 7th:

- **Key to NYC rules will be suspended.** Indoor venues, including restaurants, fitness facilities, and entertainment spaces will no longer be required to check for proof of vaccination before customers enter. Businesses previously covered by Key to NYC rules will still have the flexibility to require proof of vaccination or masking indoors if they choose.
  - **Masks will no longer be required on public school grounds for kindergarten to 12th grade students.** While these public school children will be able to remove their masks, if they so choose, schools will continue to maintain strict COVID-19 protocols, including increased ventilation, a daily screener to ensure those with symptoms do not come to school, and test kit distribution. Masks will continue to be required for all settings with children under 5 years of age (where none of the population is yet eligible for the
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vaccine), including programs contracted by the New York City Department of Education with 3- and 4-year-old children as well as 3k and 4K classrooms in district schools.

Mayor Adams today also announced that all other COVID-19 mandates will remain in effect. Under the rules, employees will still be required to be vaccinated unless they have received a reasonable accommodation from their employer.

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Additionally, Mayor Adams released a new color-coded system that tracks COVID-19 alerts and keeps New York City residents apprised of the risks they face in New York City. This new system will better help New Yorkers understand the current level of COVID-19 risk and how they can best protect themselves and others based on the current risk. The system consists of four alert levels that outline precautions and recommended actions for individuals and government based on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Community Burden Indicator.



## COVID-19 Alert Levels

Alert Level: **Low**

There is low COVID-19 community spread.

- **Precautions:** Stay up to date—get vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19; consider wearing a face mask in public indoor settings where vaccine status is not known; and get tested if you have symptoms or are at high risk for poor health outcomes. Basic public health precautions, like good hand hygiene and staying home if sick, should be followed.
  - **Recommended Government Actions:** Maintain current employer and school vaccine mandates; require face masks in settings with vulnerable individuals and where vaccine status is not verified, such as health care facilities, congregate settings, and public
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transportation; consider mandating up-to-date vaccination status in certain settings if there is a sustained increase in cases or a new concerning variant.

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[CDC Covid data tracker](#)

[CDC Covid data tracker county view](#)

Data checked on March 6, 2022 and 7-day percent positivity for New York county (Manhattan) is 1.79%.

According to CDC, Manhattan has a Moderate (yellow) rate of transmission.

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## **[What we know about the future of mask, vaccine and other COVID-19 mandates in NYC](#)**

March 4, 2022, *cityandstateny.com*, by Annie McDonough

Mayor Eric Adams is lifting the school mask mandate and Key to NYC vaccine requirement, but released a new system for putting restrictions in place during future surges.

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## **[NYC Comptroller Lander, Public Advocate Williams Call For New Safety Measures as Some COVID-19 Protections are Lifted](#)**

March 3, 2022, Press Release, NYC Comptroller Brad Lander's office

New York City Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams and Comptroller Brad Lander today called on Mayor Eric Adams and Commissioner Dave A. Chokshi to take several steps to protect New Yorkers in our schools and around the city as the administration moves to lift some existing COVID-19 prevention and protection policies...In a joint letter to the Adams administration, the two citywide elected officials implored the administration to take steps now to both prevent future outbreaks and adapt quickly when they do occur...These actions include bolstering the city's preparations by:

- Preserving a broad surveillance testing program
- Making clear to New Yorkers what the metrics are for easing and imposing new restrictions going forward
- Preparing now to rapidly expand our testing and response capacity at the first sign of a next variant or surge
- Maintaining adequate public health infrastructure and personnel
- Keeping a focus on vaccination and education in vulnerable communities

And helping keep students, teachers, parents and school staff safe now by:

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- Announcing a requirement for full COVID vaccination for students to return to school next fall, as part of the City’s standard vaccination requirements
  - Continuing the in-school COVID testing program
  - Ensuring that communications of school related COVID policies are communicated to families in the official New York City languages
  - Focusing COVID-19 testing, outreach, and on-site vaccination/booster clinics
  - Developing a long-term ventilation and air quality strategy to move past stop-gap measures
  - Providing every school and contracted PreK and 3K with a consistent supply of high quality masks
  - Offering an opt-in approach for teachers and students who wish to remain in all-masked classrooms
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## **Are home tests depressing case counts?**

Source: Bloomberg Prognosis email of March 6, 2022, *bloombergbusiness.com*

In many corners of the world, it’s starting to feel a bit like Covid is over. Countries like England have eliminated almost all Covid restrictions, while other regions are at least easing them significantly. Here in New York, Mayor Eric Adams on Friday dropped an indoor vaccine mandate for restaurants and theaters, and mask requirements for kids at school...Total confirmed cases in New York are down to just about 500 a day from almost 45,000 a day in early January, when omicron swept through the city. But questioning the validity of those numbers makes sense. After all, rapid antigen tests are now far more widely available than they once were, and most users don’t report their results...The majority of tests...rely on the user to share positive tests with the relevant public health authorities. And only a handful of states have a reporting mechanism in place for people to do that...the fewer tests being reported, the worse our viral surveillance becomes. And that weakens a key weapon in the early detection of future outbreaks.

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## **Emergency Rental Assistance**

New York State has re-opened the portal to request relief from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. If you need rent relief please apply now. Submitting an application will provide temporary protection from eviction, even without an eviction moratorium. Apply at [on.ny.gov/3rc01Dw](https://on.ny.gov/3rc01Dw).

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More Covid-19 information for Murray Hill (zip codes 10016, 10017) towards the bottom of this newsletter at the section [NYC’s Reopening](#).

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# **For businesses and nonprofits**

## **Airborne Infectious Disease Prevention Plan**

New York State requires all employers to implement an Airborne Infectious Disease Prevention Plan. Employers can find the regulation with requirements for the plan and anti-retaliation

requirements and templates for the plans in English and Spanish on the NYS Department of Labor website [dol.ny.gov/ny-hero-act](https://dol.ny.gov/ny-hero-act) (under Resources, near the bottom of the webpage). This plan is different than the Key to NYC implementation plan, so be sure to review the NYS DOL guidance.

**The Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure Prevention Standard**

[dol.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/03/p764-the-airborne-infectious-disease-exposure-prevention-standard\\_rev-03-04-22.pdf](https://dol.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/03/p764-the-airborne-infectious-disease-exposure-prevention-standard_rev-03-04-22.pdf)

**NY HERO ACT Model Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure Prevention Plan**

[dol.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/02/mock-p765\\_ny-hero-act\\_model-airborne-exposure-prevention-plan\\_02-10-22\\_0.pdf](https://dol.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/02/mock-p765_ny-hero-act_model-airborne-exposure-prevention-plan_02-10-22_0.pdf)

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## Kudos!

**Galleria on 3rd is celebrating 23 years in business!**

Museum quality custom framing, original art and art reproductions. Galleria on 3rd, 29 Third Avenue (between 35 and 36th Street), 212-683-2886, [galleriaonthird.com](https://galleriaonthird.com).

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## Job opportunities

**April 22 (deadline for applications)**

**NYC Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) jobs.**

Applications are online or can be completed in person at a participating community-based organization during the application period. Call 311 or DYCD Community Connect at 1-800-246-4646. There are two six-week cohorts beginning July 5 and running through August 20. Teens 14-15 years old learn about career opportunities and work on paid projects; ages 16-24 work in paid summer jobs in a variety of industries throughout NYC. Learn more at [www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/jobs-internships/summer-youth-employment-program-syep.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/jobs-internships/summer-youth-employment-program-syep.page). Apply at [application.nycsyep.com](https://application.nycsyep.com).

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**Javits Center Tour Guide Job Openings**

From April to October each year, the Javits Center offers public tours to provide visitors with an inside look at its operations, while demonstrating the importance of sustainability and the positive impact of the events industry. A tour guide would lead these educational tours on a regular basis, playing an integral role in communicating the mission and goals of the Javits Center and its business partners. A qualified candidate must be able to navigate the entire Javits Center campus (from 34th to 40th streets and between 11th and 12th avenues) and be able to communicate with tour groups for the full length of the tour. Training on an ongoing basis will be provided by staff, along with a handbook that outlines the history and operations of the convention center. Tour guides will receive a uniform (hat, shirt and light jacket) to wear during tour operations. Applicants can submit a resume via e-mail to [careers@javitscenter.com](mailto:careers@javitscenter.com). Questions should be directed to Human Resources at [careers@javitscenter.com](mailto:careers@javitscenter.com).

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## Join the Bryant Park Team as a Seasonal Games Host

Do you like to work outside, play games, and interact with lots of different people? If so, then you should apply to become a Bryant Park and 34th Street Games Host! Games Hosts are responsible for running the activity areas in both districts, from Ping Pong and Chess to Recess and the Reading Room. It's the perfect summer job for someone looking to have fun and make connections in some of the most dynamic public spaces in the world. More information on the role, and how to apply, is available at [bryantpark.org/about-us?mc\\_cid=a2732f70ed&mc\\_eid=1165e24a4c#job-openings](http://bryantpark.org/about-us?mc_cid=a2732f70ed&mc_eid=1165e24a4c#job-openings).

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**NYPD SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD**



**SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD**

**HELP YOUR COMMUNITY WHILE EARNING GOOD PAY AND BENEFITS**

School Crossing Guards help children safely cross busy intersections on their way to and from school. Crossing Guards control traffic flow around schools in the morning, at lunch time and at the end of the school day.

**PART TIME JOBS ARE AVAILABLE NOW**

Some of the benefits include:

- Pay starting at \$15.45/Hour
- Health/Benefits Insurance 20 + hour work week.
- Work close to home



**SCAN ME**

Apply Here

There are no formal education or experience requirements for this job, but all candidates must be able to understand and be understood in English. All candidates are subject to a background investigation and medical screening, which includes drug screening, prior to appointment.

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## How you can help



Ready to make a difference?  
**Join your Local  
Community Board!**



*Deadline Extended to March 15th!*

Manhattan's 12 Community Boards are the independent and representative voices of their communities – **the most grass-roots form of local government**. The Boards are pivotal in shaping their communities and work to enhance and preserve the character of the city's many unique neighborhoods. Manhattan's 12 Community Boards are composed of 50 volunteer members serving staggered two-year terms– thus, 25 members are appointed (or reappointed) each year.



THE OFFICE OF  
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**MARK LEVINE**

*Learn more:* [manhattanbp.nyc.gov/communityboards](http://manhattanbp.nyc.gov/communityboards)

**March 15 5pm (extended deadline for applications)**

### **Apply to serve on your Community Board**

Learn more about Community Boards at [manhattanbp.nyc.gov/communityboards](http://manhattanbp.nyc.gov/communityboards). Current members who are up for re-appointment must also apply if they wish to continue their service. Have your resume available to upload and attach as a .pdf, .doc, or .docx document, as it is required in order to successfully submit the application. If your resume is not available, a short bio can be submitted instead. Upon successful submission of your application, you will receive an automated email receipt from "Office of Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine," [no-reply@wufoo.com](mailto:no-reply@wufoo.com). This will be your application confirmation. Apply at [manhattancommunityboards.wufoo.com/forms/p2a2s130qjma1g](http://manhattancommunityboards.wufoo.com/forms/p2a2s130qjma1g).

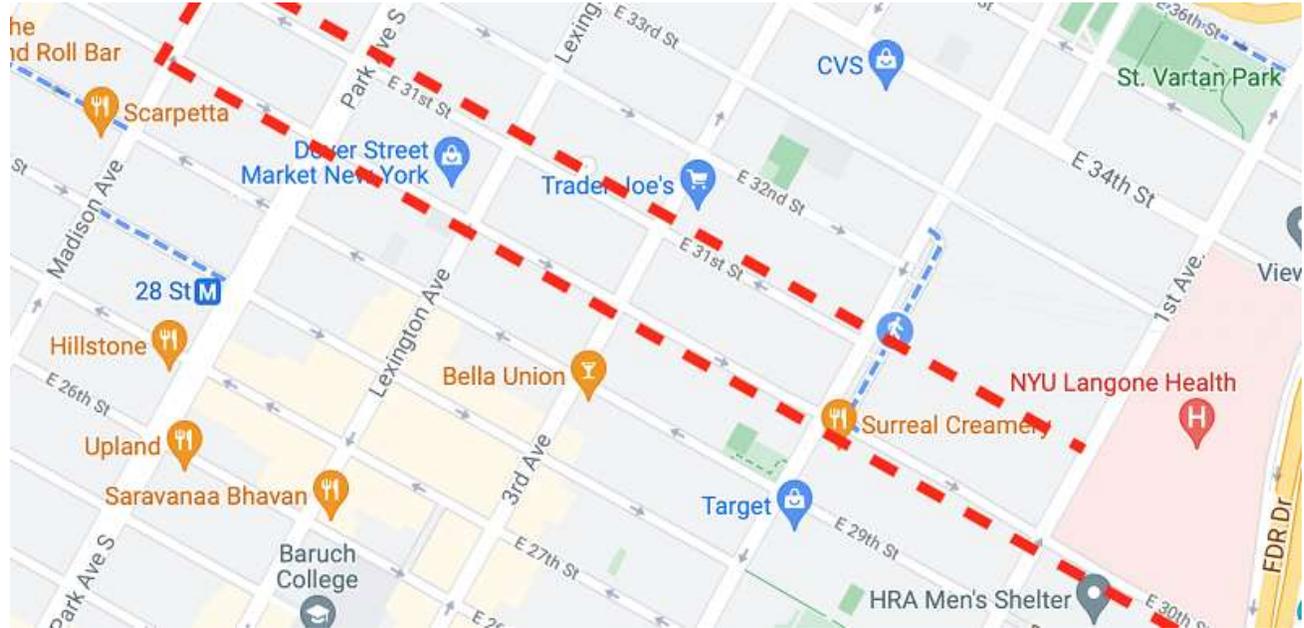


## Join the crew for the Murray Hill Spring Cleaning Series!

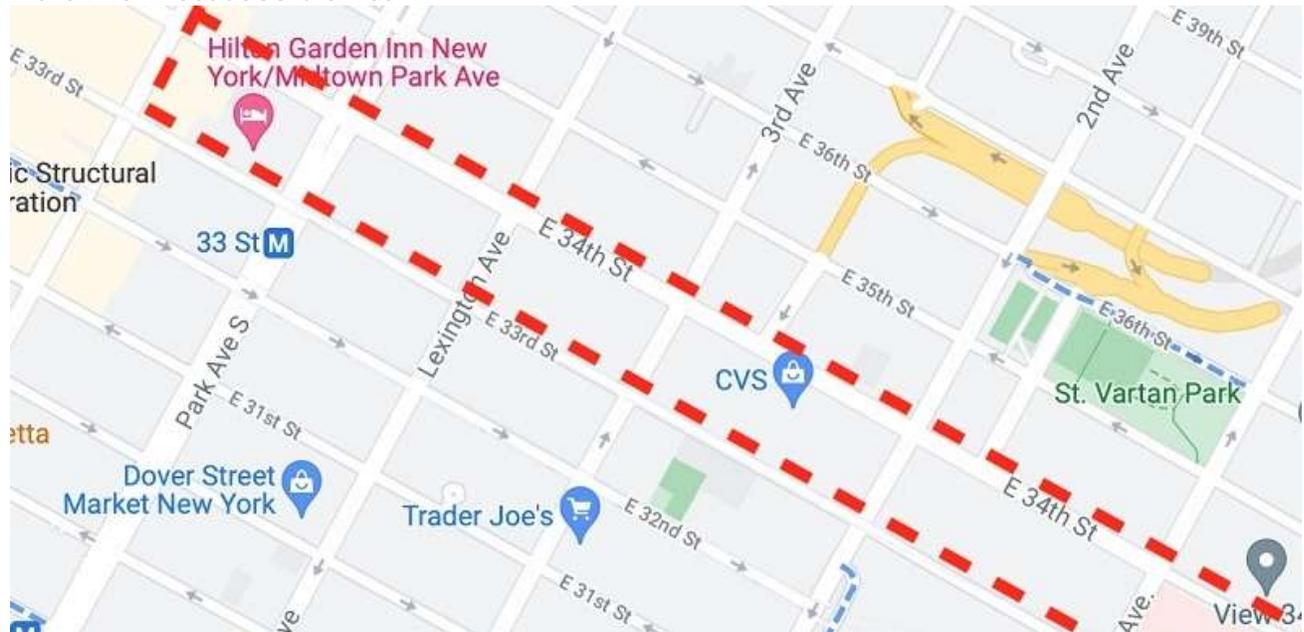
Let's clean up our neighborhood together, block by block! Care for your neighborhood and volunteer! Please bring your grabbers or tongs, recyclable bags, wear gloves and wear your Keep Murray Hill Clean vest! Organized by The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association Keep Murray Hill Clean group.

**Saturdays at 9am.**

**March 19 Meet at 30th & 1st**



**March 26 Meet at 33rd & 1st**



Save the dates for more cleaning events: April 2, April 9, April 16, April 23, April 30 - Earth Day event at St. Vartan's Park. [Flyer](#) [Learn more.](#)

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## Join a MHNA committee

The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association is an all-volunteer organization. We need your help to keep the Association's work going. Volunteering can be for individual events, such as the Street Festival, and also for ongoing activities, such as Membership. Many administrative activities can be done remotely. [Learn more about the different committees](#). If you are interested in joining a committee, please email [info@murrayhillnyc.org](mailto:info@murrayhillnyc.org).

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## Upcoming events



through April 30

### **Gallery35 opens a new virtual exhibit, *Movement***

From the tiniest particle to the vast cosmos, ***Movement*** is everywhere! Gallery35 artists became more and more excited by the idea of depicting ***Movement***, understanding that art doesn't need to be a literal picture but might be many things, perhaps as simple as the gesture of the artist's hand and brush. Please visit Gallery35's online exhibit and enjoy the artists' diverse visions! [gallery35nyc.com/2022/03/01/artists-explore-movement-in-art](https://gallery35nyc.com/2022/03/01/artists-explore-movement-in-art).

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March 9 7pm free

**(in person) On My Mind – Screening & Film Q&A with director Martin Strange-Hansen & Kim Magnusson**

(free) Presented by Scandinavia House with The Consulate General of Denmark in New York and The New Yorker, a special screening and Q&A of the 2022 Oscar-nominated short film *On My Mind* with director Martin Strange-Hansen and producer Kim Magnusson! When a man (Rasmus Hammerich) walks into a bar and begs to sing one special song on the karaoke machine, his deceptively simple request will soon be revealed as vital. Henrik wants to sing a song for his wife. It has to be today, it has to be now. It's a question of life, death and karaoke. *On My Mind* was nominated for Best Short Film (Live Action) at the 94th Academy Awards (Denmark, 2021. 18 min. In Danish with English subtitles). Following the screening, Strange-Hansen and Kim Magnusson will present a talk and Q&A on the film. Advance reservation required at [scandinaviahouse.org/events/mind-short-film-screening-qa](https://scandinaviahouse.org/events/mind-short-film-screening-qa). Telephone 212-779-3587. at Scandinavia House  
58 Park Avenue (37th/38th Street)

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March 10 10 – 11:30am

**(virtual) Medicaid Eligibility Rules: Strategies to Help You Access Long-Term Care and Protect Your Assets**

The majority of older people want to age in place, which is possible with the right support and planning. This presentation discusses the importance of long-term care planning. Long-term care is expensive, and there are many ways to improve access to health care and quality of life. The rules governing long-term care benefits can be confusing and difficult to navigate. This presentation, with speaker Julia M. Greenberg, Associate Supervising Attorney, Health Law Practice, New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), will involve a discussion of Medicaid eligibility rules for home care and nursing home care, what it covers, and the planning strategies available to protect and preserve assets and income. In addition to the Medicaid planning presentation, the roundtable begins with a brief overview of the New Economy Project's Financial Justice Hotline, which offers free legal advice regarding problems with your bank account, abusive debt collection, credit reports and credit scores, and more. Join the event online through Zoom or Facebook. You can also listen in by telephone. Registration is required at [tinyurl.com/seniorroundtable3-10-22](https://tinyurl.com/seniorroundtable3-10-22). You can submit questions when you register or during the event. Once you register for the event, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions how to join the webinar. This webinar is hosted by State Senator Liz Krueger.

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**March 10 7:30pm**

**Keyboard Conversations® series with internationally acclaimed pianist Jeffrey Siegel**

Each evening comprises an informal commentary on the music and its composers, a full performance of each work, and a short Q & A session. In this concert “The Glorious Music of Chopin,” Mr. Siegel will perform a selection of Frédéric Chopin’s polonaises, etudes, nocturnes, and mazurkas. Thanks to a generous loan by Victor Borge’s grandson Finn, this concert will be performed on Victor Borge’s personal Steinway piano.

Purchase tickets in advance, \$25 (\$20 ASF Members), at [scandinaviahouse.org/events/siegel-glorious-chopin](https://scandinaviahouse.org/events/siegel-glorious-chopin).

at Scandinavia House

Victor Borge Hall

58 Park Avenue (37th/38th Street)

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**March 11 9 - 10am**

**(Virtual) CityLaw Breakfast with Frederick P. Schaffer, Chair of the New York City Campaign Finance Board**

This CityLaw Breakfast event, co-sponsored by the Center for New York City Law, and New York Law School, features Frederick P. Schaffer, Chair, New York City Campaign Finance Board. The speakers will discuss Increasing Voter Turn Out in City Elections. RSVP at

[nyls.wufoo.com/forms/m1bc6c9y06w71o3/](https://nyls.wufoo.com/forms/m1bc6c9y06w71o3/) to join the event; login information will be sent to all RSVPs closer to the event date.

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**through March 11 High School applications (extended)**

**through March 18 Pre-K applications (for NYC children born in 2018)**

**through April 14 3-K applications (for NYC children born in 2019)**

**ongoing Elementary School, 3K and EarlyLearn enrollment**

**Kindergarten applications are closed.**

**Middle School applications are closed.**

**NYC Public School applications**

Middle schools won’t be allowed to use academic screens, but high schools can. The only screening criteria will be first semester grades from this school year and a work sample (no

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attendance or state test scores). The screening process will also be managed centrally, rather than by individual schools. High schools will be allowed to use borough and zone geographic priorities. Offers will be sent in May. Learn more at [schools.nyc.gov](https://schools.nyc.gov), at [schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade](https://schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade) and at MySchools NYC [myschools.nyc/en](https://myschools.nyc/en) (other languages are available), by phone at 718-935-2009 or at a Family Welcome Center [schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/family-welcome-centers](https://schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/family-welcome-centers). EarlyLearn is for toddlers to 2 years old and is available for eligible families. Learn more at [schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/earlylearn-nyc](https://schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/earlylearn-nyc). If you missed Kindergarten enrollment for your child, contact [myschools.nyc](https://myschools.nyc) to find out what your options are.

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**March 11 6pm**

**(in person) Metropolitan Synagogue Shabbat Services**

Metropolitan Synagogue invites you on Friday night to in-person Shabbat and Purim services, including Sephardi virtuoso and singer Avram Pengas at their new location, Scandinavia House. All are welcome to join and bring friends for a musically uplifting Shabbat and Purim service-- a time to meet and greet friends, old and new. Please RSVP to [inquiries@metropolitansynagogue.org](mailto:inquiries@metropolitansynagogue.org) if you will be in attendance and have any questions. Proof of vaccination required for entry.

[metropolitansynagogue.org](https://metropolitansynagogue.org)

at Scandinavia House

58 Park Avenue (between 37th & 38th Street)

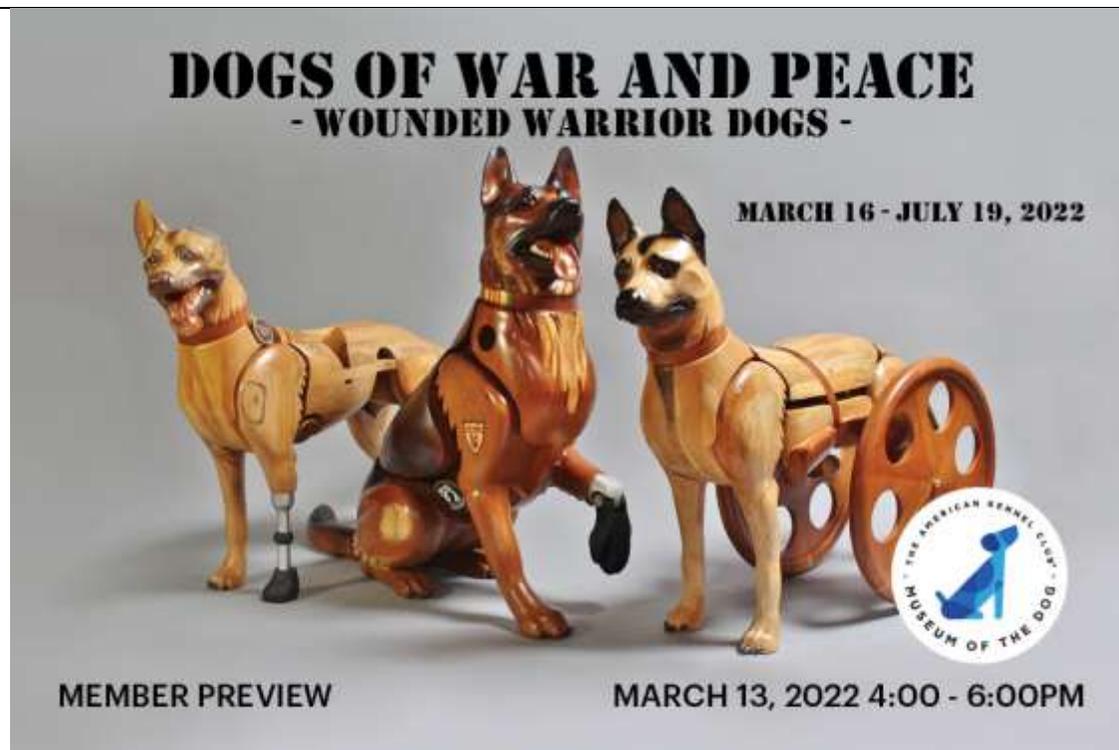
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**March 15 6pm**

**(virtual) NYPD 13th Precinct Community Council Meeting**

Join the NYPD 13th Precinct Community Council and the 13th Precinct Community Affairs officers at the Community Council Meeting. You must register to participate in the zoom meeting. To register, please email [nypdprecinct13@gmail.com](mailto:nypdprecinct13@gmail.com) and give your phone number and email address in order to receive the zoom meeting information. You may send questions to Detective Vincent Arlotta at [vincent.arlotta@nypd.org](mailto:vincent.arlotta@nypd.org) or P.O. Gregory Creamer at [gregory.creamer@nypd.org](mailto:gregory.creamer@nypd.org).

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March 16 – July 19

**Museum of the Dog exhibit Dogs of War and Peace: Wounded Warrior Dogs**

(in person) Ten life-sized, carved-wood allegorical memorials by sculptor James Mellick will be on display from his Wounded Warrior Dogs and Over the Rainbow Bridge collections, along with the museum's permanent collection, which includes sculptures, paintings, collars, vests, photographs, and more. Telephone 212-696-8360, purchase tickets at [museumofthedog.org](http://museumofthedog.org).

at AKC Museum of the Dog

101 Park Avenue (40th Street in the plaza)



**March 17 starting at 11am**

## **NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade**

The New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade returns to Fifth Avenue this year! Watch the parade live-streamed from Fifth Avenue at [nycstpatricksparade.org](http://nycstpatricksparade.org) and on [WNBC.com](http://WNBC.com) starting at 11am. The NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade is one of New York City's greatest traditions. The first parade was on March 17, 1762 – fourteen years before the signing of the United States Declaration of Independence. The first NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade was comprised of a band of homesick, Irish ex-patriots and Irish military members serving with the British Army stationed in the colonies in New York. This was a time when the wearing of green was a sign of Irish pride but was banned in Ireland. In that 1762 parade, participants reveled in the freedom to speak Irish, wear green, sing Irish songs and play the pipes to Irish tunes that were meaningful to the Irish immigrants of that time. Today, the NYC Parade marches up 5th Avenue and is reviewed from the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral by His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York. Since it began, this tradition of marching past St. Patrick's Cathedral has remained unchanged with the exception of the address. The St. Patrick's Day Parade is the world's oldest and largest parade and has become a tradition that is enjoyed by all!

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## **Changes in the neighborhood**

### **[Black Spruce scored \\$675M for American Copper Buildings buy](#)**

March 4, 2022, *therealdeal.com*, by TRD Staff

Josh Gotlib's Black Spruce Management is receiving help in its massive purchase of the American Copper Buildings. JPMorgan is providing \$675 million in acquisition financing to Black Spruce and Orbach Affordable Housing Solutions for the purchase of the Murray Hill luxury apartment towers at 626 First Avenue, the Commercial Observer reported...The buildings include roughly 600 market-rate units and 160 rent-stabilized units, connected by a bridge 300 feet in the air. Monthly rents in the buildings range from \$3,700 to \$17,000...Upon closing, Black Spruce's buy is set to be one of the biggest residential deals in the city since the onset of the pandemic...Black Spruce has acquired more than 4,000 apartments in the last dozen years.

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### **[BEB acquires Kips Bay mixed-use for \\$55M](#)**

March 04, 2022, *therealdeal.com*, by Joe Lovinger, research by Greg Dool

Long Island-based BEB Capital bought a Kips Bay apartment building from AD Real Estate for \$55.2 million, public records show. Ivy 30, the 18-story development at 312-316 East 30th Street, features 65 apartment rentals and three offices.

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Rendering by DBOX.

## [New Renderings Revealed For 1,200-Foot PENN15 Supertall In Midtown, Manhattan](#)

March 3, 2022, *newyorkyimby.com*, by Michael Young

Fresh renderings by DBOX shed new light on PENN 15, a 56-story, 1,200-foot-tall commercial skyscraper at 15 Penn Plaza in Midtown, Manhattan. Designed by Foster + Partners and developed by Vornado Realty Trust, the 2.7 million-square-foot supertall will rise from the site of the Hotel Pennsylvania, which has been closed since early 2020 and is beginning the demolition process. The tower will be the tallest component in the 7.4-million-square-foot Penn District master plan, on a plot bound by Seventh Avenue to the west, West 32nd Street to the south, and West 33rd Street to the north...The ground floor contains a mix of retail space positioned along Seventh Avenue and West 32nd Street, and the core of PENN 15 would rest along the northern edge of the superstructure. A porte cochere is situated on the eastern corner, and a loading dock faces West 32nd Street...PENN 15's sustainability goals include utilizing integrated photovoltaic cells on the pinnacle of the supertall, all-electric systems, rainwater collection, advanced heat recovery and storage from the transit networks below, reduced water usage, a green roof, and further targets...The site is located in a hotbed of subway and train access, with the B, D, F, M, N, Q, R, W, and PATH trains to the east at Herald Square and the 1, 2, 3, A, C, and E subway lines and the NJ Transit and Amtrak trains to the west at Penn Station and Moynihan Train Hall. Other buildings in the Penn District in the process of being transformed include One and Two Penn Plaza. A completion date for PENN 15 remains unclear, though YIMBY expects work to be finished by the end of the decade.



ReThinkNYC Press Release, email of February 25, 2022

**ReThinkNYC is another group opposing the Penn Station development plan.**

The group submitted a 73-page testimony proposing alternatives to New York State's Neighborhood Demolition Plan to Fund Incremental Transit Improvements at Penn Station to New York State's Empire State Development Corporation. Mr. Weinstock's submission:

[dropbox.com/s/ulazarfyb3rnyyp/%20SubmissionReThinkNYCn%20to%20ESD.pdf?dl=0](https://dropbox.com/s/ulazarfyb3rnyyp/%20SubmissionReThinkNYCn%20to%20ESD.pdf?dl=0). Contact: Sam Turvey: [turveysa@gmail.com](mailto:turveysa@gmail.com).

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## Elections & voting

**[Judge in redistricting case declines to halt New York's elections, but floats statewide specials in 2023](#)**

March 3, 2022, *politico.com*, by Bill Mahoney

"It is highly unlikely that the new viable map could be drawn and be in place within a few weeks or even a couple of months," said state Supreme Court Judge Patrick McAllister in Steuben County...Elections can go forward: McAllister declined, however, to support Republicans on their sweeping request to delay this year's elections.

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## Schools and students

**School report cards for covid testing, which have been so good previously, show a large increase in positive tests over the last 2 weeks.**

**COVID-19 Report Card for [PS 116 Mary Lindley Murray](#).** Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=464. Eighty-eight positive tests were reported since September 2020 (66 students, 22 staff). No positive tests in the last 14 days.

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**COVID-19 Report Card for [The River School](#).** Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=516. Ninety-six positive tests were reported since September (78 students, 18 staff). No new positive tests in the past 14 days.

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**COVID-19 Report Card for [Murray Hill Academy](#).** Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=299. Twenty-five positive tests since September. Forty-six positive tests in the last 14 days (34 students, 12 staff). No new positive tests in the past 14 days.

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**COVID-19 Report Card for [J.H.S 104 Simon Baruch](#).** Total Students Enrolled + Teachers/Staff=1,108. One hundred seventy-four positive cases since September (167 students, 7 staff). No new positive tests in the past 14 days.

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## **[Hochul's proposal to extend mayoral control of NYC schools to four years gets pushback](#)**

March 4, 2022, *cityandstateny.com*, by Megan McGibney

Hochul's proposal to extend mayoral control of NYC schools to four years gets pushback. Education leaders and elected officials speaking at a public hearing wanted a shorter extension and to start a discussion on how the schools would be governed going forward...Defending mayoral control were Adams and Schools Chancellor David Banks, both of whom said the old system, run by school boards, does not work.

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## **Policing & police reform**

### **Weekly crime reports**

#### **17th precinct**

[www1.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/crime\\_statistics/cs-en-us-017pct.pdf](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/crime_statistics/cs-en-us-017pct.pdf)

#### **13th Precinct**

[www1.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/crime\\_statistics/cs-en-us-013pct.pdf](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/crime_statistics/cs-en-us-013pct.pdf)

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## **Elections & voting**

## [Zeldin clinches state GOP nomination for gov](#)

March 1, 2022, *cityandstateny.com*, by Rebecca C. Lewis

Rep. Lee Zeldin officially won the backing of the state Republican Party at its nominating convention today, considered by most a foregone conclusion well before the convention began...But despite the official stance from party officials, the race is far from over as other declared candidates made spirited appeals to party members to support their campaigns.

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## Budget, finances & taxes

### [Questioning 'Austerity,' City Council Begins Examining Mayor Adams' \\$98.5 Billion Preliminary Budget](#)

March 2, 2022, *gothamgazette.com*, by Samar Khurshid

The New York City Council on Wednesday kicked off the process of examining Mayor Eric Adams' \$98.5 billion preliminary budget proposal for the 2023 fiscal year, which begins July 1. It was the first of many hearings that will take place over the next several weeks as the Council digs into the first spending plan of Adams' four-year term...Adams inherited a solid fiscal situation given massive amounts of federal aid and stronger than expected tax revenues, virtually erasing pandemic-induced deficits and vulnerabilities; but also a city budget with plenty of fat to trim given its immense growth over the years. The new mayor, a Democrat, instituted a broad 3% Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEG) and identified a resulting \$2 billion in savings across city government, but for a few agencies, while planning a reduction in the municipal workforce by 7,000 workers without layoffs...OMB Director Jiha emphasized that the city's recovery has been "mixed"...Revenues have been higher than anticipated because of a booming stock market and better than expected personal income taxes, while retail and residential sales have rebounded. But, the city has not recovered jobs as fast as the national average and unemployment remains at 9%, compared to 4% nationally. Industries like hospitality and tourism are bouncing back much more slowly, and the rate of employees returning to workplaces was hobbled by the Omicron surge. Office vacancy rates are reported to be almost 20%, the highest in decades. "Given these uncertainties, the administration took a cautious and pragmatic approach to the preliminary budget," [OMB Director] Jiha said. He also pointed to risks stemming from the state budget, including a proposed permanent extension of the yearly \$200 million Sales Tax Intercept for the Distressed Hospitals Fund, which has already sapped \$400 million from the city, and another almost \$300 million in cuts and cost shifts from other sources. A chief concern for most Council members was the administration's plan for continuing programs that are currently being funded with one-time federal funds.

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## Government, executive orders, legislation, rules, policies (including pending)

## [State Aims to Reinstate Hundreds of Psychiatric Beds Shifted During Pandemic](#)

February 15, 2022, *gothamgazette.com*, by Ethan Geringer-Sameth

New York State is looking to reinstate all of the roughly 400 beds in the state's inpatient psychiatric system that were converted to medical beds at the start of the pandemic two years ago. But there is a long road to restore them despite mounting pressure from elected officials, representatives of the state Office of Mental Health (OMH) told lawmakers at a joint state legislative budget hearing Monday...The pandemic shift was part of a punctuated leap in a decades' long reduction in psychiatric beds due to the deinstitutionalization movement, low Medicaid reimbursement rates that discourage private providers from maintaining them, and shrinking state funding for state-run wards. Inpatient psychiatric beds are a key part of the debate over calls for greater state intervention in the lives of people with the most serious mental illnesses, especially those who may become a danger to themselves or others. Also in focus is Kendra's Law, which allows courts to mandate supervised mental health care, known as assisted outpatient treatment (AOT), or commit an individual temporarily to an inpatient psychiatric center, if they cannot manage their care on their own and exhibit violent behavior...New York City Mayor Eric Adams, Governor Kathy Hochul, and a bipartisan cadre of state lawmakers are pushing for an extension and expansion of the law in response to recent spikes in violent crimes and a spate of high-profile killings by New Yorkers with alleged mental illness.

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## Stories we are following

### “Dark Stores”

Councilmember Gale Brewer's email of March 5, 2022

You've seen them pop up in the neighborhood. Quick-service fulfillment centers— brands like Buyk, Jokr, Getir, Gorillas, GoPuff, Fridge No More, or even DoorDash's “Dash Markets,” backed by venture capitalists and/or global corporations. They're gobbling up storefronts in commercial corridors throughout the city...Of the 115 locations identified, over 80% are in areas that aren't zoned for warehouses (16D zoning). They also seem to violate NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs regulations— meaning actual customers aren't allowed inside, they don't accept cash, there's no shelf unit pricing, and windows are darkened or papered over— deadening the streetscape...It recalls the days of Uber vehicles flooding the streets without any approvals from the TLC, and the period when AirBnB and building owners conspired to rent apartments —originally designed for residents of New York— to tourists, worsening the housing shortage...[On March 1, 2022] Council Speaker Adrienne Adams and CM Gale Brewer and ten colleagues wrote to the new Mayor to urge faster government consideration of this growing phenomenon. [Read the letter.](#)

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## NYC's reopening

**New York State and NYC** reached the goal of a 70% vaccination rate for adults, and the community rate of infection, hospitalizations and deaths are low. As a result, most of the covid restrictions have

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been lifted. For information about specific NY agencies, check with the agency's website. Federal guidelines are still in effect. Learn more at the links below.

**Centers for Disease Control (CDC) covid webpage** [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

**Federal laws and regulations regarding covid** [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cdcresponse/laws-regulations.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cdcresponse/laws-regulations.html)

**CDC Interim Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People** [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html)

**U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) webpage on covid vaccines** [fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines)

**U.S. Department of State COVID-19 Travel Guidance for U.S. Citizens**  
[travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information1.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information1.html)

**Federal resources for small businesses that are impacted by covid** [covid-sb.org](https://www.covid-sb.org).

**New York State reopening guidance for businesses** [forward.ny.gov](https://www.forward.ny.gov) and [governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/NYS\\_CDCGuidance\\_Summary.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/NYS_CDCGuidance_Summary.pdf). Learn more at [forward.ny.gov/active-industry-guidance](https://www.forward.ny.gov/active-industry-guidance).

**New York State information** about reopening, covid rates and zones, vaccination program, covid restrictions and guidance, travel advisory, etc. [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home](https://www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home).

**NYS travel advisory** [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory](https://www.coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory).

**New York City covid webpage (for individuals and businesses)**  
[www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/index.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/index.page).

**New York State Business Pandemic Recovery Initiative.** The Empire State Development page with information about grants, tax credits, and technical assistance programs for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more at [esd.ny.gov/business-pandemic-recovery-initiative](https://www.esd.ny.gov/business-pandemic-recovery-initiative).

**New York City Department of Health (DOH) covid webpage** [www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page)

**The NYC Citywide Information Portal with resource guides for businesses and individuals,** including COVID-specific resource guides for New Yorkers [www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/resources/resources-for-new-yorkers.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/resources/resources-for-new-yorkers.page) and [311 portal.311.nyc.gov](https://www1.nyc.gov/portal.311.nyc.gov).

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**Covid-19 rate of transmission** for Murray Hill (zip codes 10016, 10017). The data is from the NYC Department of Health website COVID-19 tracker [www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page). Data was viewed on March 6, 2022, but it is not clear if this page is still being updated.

This page on the Department of Health website shows the NYC transmission rate level as **Low**. [www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/index.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/index.page).

New York State COVID-19 tracker [forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard](http://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard).

Why are the covid numbers for New York City and New York State different? NYC and NYS calculate the covid positivity rate differently. The NYC numbers tend to be more conservative.

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## Vaccinations

Vaccines are now readily available and are free. **The NYC Vaccine Finder** tells you everywhere in NYC that vaccinations are available and the type of vaccination offered [vaccinefinder.nyc.gov](http://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov).

Walgreens, RiteAid and CVS participate in the Federal vaccination program, as well as some independent pharmacies. They will be listed on the [vaccinefinder.nyc.gov](http://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov) app. Check with your pharmacy to find out if they are offering vaccinations. You can also check with your primary care physician.

Vaccination data can be found on [www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data-vaccines.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data-vaccines.page). We have asked NYC DOH to verify that this page is still being updated.

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## All New Yorkers can get tested for coronavirus.

Sites run by New York State are free [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you](http://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you). You can also check with your doctor, pharmacies and walk-in urgent care to find out if they do testing and if there will be charges. NYC free testing locations: [www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page), call 212-COVID19, or text COVID TEST to 855-48.

### For Murray Hill/Kips Bay

**Bellevue**, First Avenue at 26th Street, (free) no appointment necessary; wait times are unpredictable. Be sure that they set up your patient portal so that you can get your results quickly. Test results usually come back in 1-2 days.

**IMPORTANT: There is still no cure for COVID-19. To stop the spread take a layered approach:**

- get vaccinated
  - wear face coverings if you are unvaccinated or when you are with unvaccinated people
-

- maintain distance (6 feet between people if unvaccinated)
- practice good hand hygiene
- stay home if sick (seek care if you feel seriously ill)

When community rates of infection are high, limit non-essential activities, travel and indoor gatherings with people who are not in your household.

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See [murrayhillnyc.org](http://murrayhillnyc.org) for additional COVID-19 information, including

[Reopening](#)

[Testing](#)

[Vaccinations](#)

[Neighborhood houses of worship, museums, educational and cultural institutions](#)

[Neighborhood restaurants, food & spirits that are open for delivery & pickup](#)

[Neighborhood retail, health care \(including pets\) & services that are open](#)

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## **The NYC Citywide Information Portal**

[www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/resources/resources-for-new-yorkers.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/resources/resources-for-new-yorkers.page) and 311 [portal.311.nyc.gov](http://portal.311.nyc.gov) have created COVID-specific resource guides for New Yorkers. These resource guides contain information related to emotional well-being, rent and housing, NYCHA residents, and more. Get information and resources to help protect yourself and others from COVID-19 <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page>.

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## **The MHNA Discount Program**

Please be prepared to show proof of membership when you ask for a discount. Full list of discounts at the links below.

[\*\*Restaurant and Food Discounts\*\*](#)

[\*\*General Discounts\*\*](#)

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## **Our government representatives**

When contacting your representative, be sure to state your address so that they know that you are a constituent. You can see the District maps and sign up for their emails on their websites.

**Manhattan Community Board 5:** [www.cb5.org](http://www.cb5.org), 212-465-0907, [office@cb5.org](mailto:office@cb5.org)

**Manhattan Community Board 6:** [cbsix.org](http://cbsix.org), 212-319-3750, [office@cbsix.org](mailto:office@cbsix.org)

**NYC Councilwoman Carlina Rivera, Council District 2:** [council.nyc.gov/carlina-rivera](http://council.nyc.gov/carlina-rivera), 212-677-1077, [District2@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District2@council.nyc.gov)

**NYC Council Member Erik Bottcher, Council District 3:** [council.nyc.gov/district-3](http://council.nyc.gov/district-3), 212-564-7757, [District3@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District3@council.nyc.gov).

**NYC Council Member Keith Powers, Council District 4:** [council.nyc.gov/keith-powers](http://council.nyc.gov/keith-powers), 212-818-0580, [KPowers@council.nyc.gov](mailto:KPowers@council.nyc.gov)

**NYC Council Member Julie Menin, Council District 5:** [council.nyc.gov/julie-menin](http://council.nyc.gov/julie-menin), 212-788-6865, [District5@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District5@council.nyc.gov).

**NYC Council Speaker Adrienne E. Adams (speaker)** [SpeakerAdams@council.nyc.gov](mailto:SpeakerAdams@council.nyc.gov), 718-206-2068 [council.nyc.gov/district-28](http://council.nyc.gov/district-28).

**Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine:** [manhattanbp.nyc.gov](http://manhattanbp.nyc.gov), 212-669-8300, [info@manhattanbp.nyc.gov](mailto:info@manhattanbp.nyc.gov)

**Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, #GetHelp,** The Office of the Public Advocate assists with complaints and inquiries involving government-related services and regulations. Telephone Hotline: 212-669-7250, email: [GetHelp@advocate.nyc.gov](mailto:GetHelp@advocate.nyc.gov)

**Mayor Eric Adams:** [www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor](http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor), 311, online message: <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/mayor-contact.page>.

**Landmarks Preservation Commission:** [www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/about/contact-us.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/lpc/about/contact-us.page)

**Schedule of hearings, sign-up forms to attend and more.**

**New York Senate** website [nysenate.gov](http://nysenate.gov).

**New York State Assembly** website [nyassembly.gov](http://nyassembly.gov).

**NY State Senator Liz Krueger, 28th Senate District:** [nysenate.gov/senators/liz-krueger](http://nysenate.gov/senators/liz-krueger), 212-490-9535, [lkrueger@nysenate.gov](mailto:lkrueger@nysenate.gov)

**NY State Senator Brad Hoylman, 27th Senate District:** [nysenate.gov/senators/brad-hoylman](http://nysenate.gov/senators/brad-hoylman), 212-633-8052, [hoylman@nysenate.gov](mailto:hoylman@nysenate.gov)

**NY State Assembly Member Dan Quart, Assembly District 73,** [nyassembly.gov/mem/Dan-Quart](http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Dan-Quart), 212-605-0937, [quartd@nyassembly.gov](mailto:quartd@nyassembly.gov)

**NY State Assembly Member Harvey Epstein, Assembly District 74,** [nyassembly.gov/mem/Harvey-Epstein](https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Harvey-Epstein), 212-979-9696, [epsteinh@nyassembly.gov](mailto:epsteinh@nyassembly.gov)

**NY Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried, Assembly District 75,** [nyassembly.gov/mem/Richard-N-Gottfried](https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Richard-N-Gottfried), 212-807-7900, [GottfriedR@nyassembly.gov](mailto:GottfriedR@nyassembly.gov)

**New York Assembly Upcoming Public hearings** [And archived videos can also be accessed on this page.] [nyassembly.gov/av/upcoming](https://nyassembly.gov/av/upcoming)

**New York Assembly Upcoming Public hearings calendar**  
<https://www.nyassembly.gov/leg/?sh=hear>

**Governor Kathy Hochul,** New York State, [governor.ny.gov](https://governor.ny.gov), contact page on website [governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form](https://governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form)

**U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney, New York's 12th Congressional District:** [maloney.house.gov](https://maloney.house.gov), 212-860-0606, website contact form: [maloney.house.gov/contact-carolyn/email-me](https://maloney.house.gov/contact-carolyn/email-me)

**U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer:** [schumer.senate.gov](https://schumer.senate.gov), 212-486-4430, website contact form: [schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck](https://schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck)

**U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand:** [gillibrand.senate.gov](https://gillibrand.senate.gov), 212-688-6262, website contact form: [gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/email-me](https://gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/email-me)

**U.S. President Joseph Biden:** website contact form: [whitehouse.gov/contact](https://whitehouse.gov/contact)  
The White House site [whitehouse.gov](https://whitehouse.gov) is once more a trusted source for news on legislation, press releases, White House press briefings, and more. Presidential actions [whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions](https://whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions).

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You can also find these weekly newsletters online in PDF (printable) format at [www.murrayhillnyc.org](https://www.murrayhillnyc.org) in the News section, look for Weekly Eblasts 2022.

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[Read our Privacy Statement](#)

**If you are not a member  
or your membership has lapsed  
please [join/renew now](#)**

Connect with The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association



And, don't forget to tag @MHNAnc  
in your Murray Hill-inspired Instagram photos!

Visit the MHNA website [murrayhillnyc.org](http://murrayhillnyc.org)  
Contact the MHNA by email at [info@murrayhillnyc.org](mailto:info@murrayhillnyc.org)

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The Murray Hill Neighborhood Association  
or because you have signed up to receive our emails.

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send an email to [info@murrayhillnyc.org](mailto:info@murrayhillnyc.org)  
with "Remove" in the subject.

