

# Update on COVID-19 locally

Continued from page 1

start Tuesday. The state has acquired 70,000 doses of hydroxychloroquine, 10,000 doses of zithromax and 750,000 doses of chloroquine.

-On March 20, Cuomo enacted Matilda's Law to protect New Yorkers age 70+ and those with compromised immune systems. The measure requires this group of New Yorkers to stay home and limit home visitation to immediate family members or close friends in need of emergency assistance. If it is necessary to visit such individuals, the visitor should get pre-screened by taking temperature and seeing if person is exhibiting other flu-like symptoms. Both individuals should wear a mask for the duration of the visit.

-On March 19, the Governor announced the Department of Financial Services has issued a new directive to New York State mortgage servicers to provide 90-day mortgage relief to mortgage borrowers impacted by the novel coronavirus. The directive includes waiving mortgage payments based on financial hardship, no negative reporting to credit bureaus, grace period for loan modification, no late payment fees or online payment fees, and postponing or suspending foreclosures.

## COUNTY

-Nuvance Health, in cooperation with Dutchess and Ulster counties, openED two COVID-19 drive-through collection

sites on Monday, March 23. The sites are the Intermodal Center at Dutchess Stadium on Route 9D in Fishkill and Tech City at 300 Enterprise Drive in Kingston. Enterprise Drive is easily accessible from either Route 209 or Route 9W via Boice Lane. These sites are used to collect samples from people who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. The samples will be sent offsite for testing. A person must have a physician's order before entering these locations.

-On Sunday, the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH) confirmed the first death relating to COVID-19 in Dutchess County. While specific information cannot be provided for privacy reasons, it was confirmed the individual was a 69-year-old male who developed respiratory distress and went directly to Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital where he was treated, but died on Friday, March 20. The individual had not been screened or monitored by DBCH prior to hospitalization.

-There are currently more than 60 positive cases of COVID-19 and the numbers are expected to increase as more testing becomes available this week. Staying home is critical to stop the spread of COVID-19 to flatten the curve.

-Dutchess County Parks currently remain open for people to enjoy "isolated recreation" as Governor Cuomo has called it. This includes walking, running and enjoying the trails.

-The Dutchess Business Notification Network was created as a resource for

local businesses to navigate the fast-changing guidelines in this challenging situation. Business owners are encouraged to direct all questions to the Network in lieu of contacting state agencies directly.

-Small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private not-for-profits in all Mid-Hudson counties are now eligible to apply for SBA economic injury disaster loans. The SBA can provide up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses that could have been met had the disaster not occurred. The loan amount will be based on the business' actual economic injury and the company's financial needs.

Long-term postponements/cancellations (past March)

-The Bardavon Gala has been rescheduled to Sunday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets on sale now at Ticketmaster.com

-Murder Cafe has canceled its scheduled performances for the next eight weeks.

-Kaatsbaan announced that in lieu of live classes and performances during March/April, it will live-stream masterclasses, studio visits/rehearsals and previously scheduled shows. A detailed schedule is available at [www.kaatsbaan.org](http://www.kaatsbaan.org) as well as on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

-DC Office for the Aging has postponed or canceled its upcoming programming until further notice. See this week's Golden Living column for details.

-Beginning Saturday, March 28, Royal Carting will suspending town dump pickups for two weeks. This service is currently scheduled to resume on April 11. Regular town garbage pickups will remain in effect.

-Vassar Temple Community Seder, scheduled for April 8, has been canceled.

-Concerts in the Village in Kinderhook has postponed its upcoming events. Rescheduled concerts will be announced.

-The Rhinebeck Rotary Club canceled its May 18 Service Above Self Awards Dinner. This year's honorees—Kiki Steele as Citizen of the Year, The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck as Organization of the Year, Spirit of Service Lifetime Achievement Award winner Joseph Phelan, and Paul Harris Award winners, Michelle Andrick and Bill Schaefer—will be honored at next year's dinner in May 2021.

-West Point Band has canceled its concerts through April 5. For additional information, visit <https://www.westpoint.edu/coronavirus>.

-"Shakespeare in Love," scheduled to run April 24-May 10 at The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, has been canceled.

-The Rhinebeck Chamber Music Society has canceled the remainder of its concerts this year. "We are hoping to reschedule all of the performances and tickets purchased for the current season will be honored," said RCMS President Joan Monder.

## Nuvance launches initiatives to prevent COVID-19 spread

As it navigates the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) outbreak, Nuvance Health recently launched several initiatives to help keep patients and the community safe as well as up to date on the latest information. These include:

**COVID-19 Community Hotline:** To address questions, concerns and offer remote screenings for community members, concerned individuals are encouraged to call the Nuvance Health COVID-19 Community Hotline at (888) 667-9262. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week.

**Hospital visitation:** For everyone's safety, hospitals across Nuvance Health have

suspended all visitation with exceptions for active labor and delivery, pediatrics, nursery and NICU. Other exceptions will be considered for circumstances including end-of-life and life- or limb-threatening situations.

**Tips and FAQs:** Visit [nuvancehealth.org/coronavirus](http://nuvancehealth.org/coronavirus) for frequent updates, answers to commonly asked questions and tips for coping with coronavirus, such as managing your stress and talking to children about the pandemic.

### What You Can Do

Stay home and distance yourself from others. Avoid large crowds and stay home as much as possible.

If you have a doctor's appointment, call the office before you arrive. If you must come into your doctor's office, stand six feet away from the check-in desk and other patients in the waiting area. When possible, attend medical appointments alone unless you must have someone accompany you. Be advised that patients and visitors will be asked COVID-19 screening questions. Visitors showing signs of respiratory illness, such as cough, fever or difficulty breathing/shortness of breath will be asked to go home and the clinical team on-site will provide further guidance.

Try to stay healthy. Continue practicing good hand hygiene by washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds — or use an alcohol-

based sanitizer if soap and water are not available. Avoid touching your face and shaking hands. Cover your cough and maintain distance from people who are coughing and sneezing.

If you develop symptoms, such as a cough and fever:

Call the community hotline at (888) 667-9262 to speak with a clinical staff member about your concerns.

Call your doctor's office or medical provider for guidance.

For more severe illness, including difficulty breathing, call ahead before heading to your local Emergency Department.

Call 911 if you are unable to go to an Emergency Department and, again, advise them of your symptoms and risks.

## Dutchess County Public Transit reducing service

Dutchess County Public Transit has announced service reductions was set to go into effect Tuesday, March 24. Only Routes E, J, K and L will be operating, with service provided from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. All other fixed routes will be suspended.

Additionally, Dial-A-Ride and Flex service will be suspended until further notice. A special same day, on-demand service has been established and will be provided to senior citizens, those with disabilities, and veterans who do not have access to routes E, J, K, and L. Fixed route fares will be a reduced rate of \$.75 per ride. Same-day, on-demand service will be \$1 one way.

"As people are implored to stay at home and all but essential operations should be closed, Dutchess County Public Transit is adjusting its routes and service operations to ensure those who do need to get essential destinations are able to do," said Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro. "We continue to operate our

highest demand routes that passengers have been continuing to utilize, but are adjusting our operations to redirect service to those who need it most."

### Fixed Route Service

Route J serves the City of Poughkeepsie Transit HUB, Poughkeepsie Train Station, Admiral Halsey, Interfaith Towers, Mid-Hudson Regional Medical Center, Dutchess County Mental Health Campus, Marist College, the CIA and Stop & Shop Hyde Park.

Route K serves the City of Poughkeepsie Transit HUB, Poughkeepsie Train Station, some of the City of Poughkeepsie, Vassar Hospital and related health care offices, St. Simeon, Spring Manor, Dutchess Dialysis, Price Chopper, Care Mount Medical, CVS, Target, Shop Rite and Stop and Shop.

Route L serves the City of

Poughkeepsie Transit HUB, Poughkeepsie Train Station, Main Street in Poughkeepsie, Social Security, Associated Super Market, Rite Aid, Stop & Shop on Route 44, CVS, and Adams.?

Route E Limited service will start at 14 Commerce Street and serve Hudson River Housing and flags stops along the arterial, as well as to and from the City of Poughkeepsie Transit HUB.

### Special Same-Day, On-Demand Service

Special same-day, on-demand service has been established Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and will be provided to senior citizens, those with disabilities, and veterans who do not have access to routes E, J, K, and L. Other riders may be accommodated if seat availability allows.

The on-demand service is for trips originating and ending within Dutchess County for the limited purpose of visiting: Pharmacy for pick-up and drop-off of

prescriptions

Food shopping center

Doctor's office or health care facility for medical needs only.

To schedule this service, please call Dutchess County's Coronavirus Information Line at 845-486-3555, option 6 starting Tuesday, March 24th. Please have the following information ready when calling:

Passenger name

Phone number

Pick up address

Destination address

Please note, this service is not intended for medical emergencies. Anyone experiencing a medical emergency should dial 9-1-1.

Dutchess County Government continues to provide residents the most current information and guidance on its website, [www.dutchessny.gov/coronavirus](http://www.dutchessny.gov/coronavirus), its Coronavirus hotline, (845) 486-3555, and its Facebook and Twitter accounts.