

## 'New York Forward': Welcome to phase 3!

On Tuesday, Western New York entered phase three of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's "New York Forward" reopening process. This stage includes the following:

•**Food service and restaurants:** Per the "New York Forward" website, "In regions that have reached Phase 3, such establishments may open indoor spaces with seating for customers, in accordance with the guidelines below/in "Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Food Services." "Outdoor space" is defined as open-air space designated for the consumption of food/beverage, which may have a temporary or fixed cover (e.g. awning or roof), so long as such cover has at least two open sides for airflow."

•**Personal care:** Per the "New York Forward" website, this includes "non-hair-related personal care businesses and services, including tattoo and piercing facilities, appearance enhancement practitioners, massage therapy, spas, cosmetology, nail specialty, UV and non-UV tanning, or waxing. This guidance does not apply to any hair-related personal care services (e.g. haircutting, coloring, or styling), which are addressed in "Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Hair Salons and Barbershops."

√ In addition, Cuomo said public gatherings can increase from 10 to 25 people.

√ He also is allowing low-risk youth sports (baseball, softball, gymnastics, field hockey, cross country, crew) for regions in phase three to resume on July 6, with up to two spectators allowed per child.

## COVID-19 Closures & Updates

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Cuomo is currently using the "Percentage Positive Results By Region Dashboard" as a determinant to when regions can enter a new phase. This chart "includes the total daily number of COVID-19 tests conducted and, of those tests, how many were positive each day."

Among the metrics:

•**Total Persons Tested:** The number of tests of individuals performed on the test date. This total includes positives, negatives, and inconclusive results.

•**Total Tested Positive:** The number of new persons tested positive for COVID-19 infection on the test date.

•**% Positive Results:** Percentage of positive test results over the total tests performed.

•**% Positive Tests per Day (7-Day Rolling Avg):** The average share of tests that are positive over the last seven days.

If Western New York remains at or about 1%, it is expected to enter phase four (arts, entertainment, recreation, education) on June 30.

Cuomo, on Tuesday, congratulated Western New York. A weighted antibody test revealed a lower number of positive coronavirus tests, in terms of percentage of population, than previously stated (down 2.8% to 3.2%)

## AROUND NIAGARA COUNTY

### County has infrared thermometers and hand sanitizer available for local businesses

Niagara County Legislator Dave Godfrey announced the Niagara County Department of Emergency Services has a limited supply of infrared thermometers available for businesses to help them meet the state reopening guidelines.

"Our Emergency Services Department has done an outstanding job throughout the COVID-19 pandemic securing the necessary personal protective equipment and other supplies our community needs," said Godfrey, chair-

man of the Community Safety and Security Committee. "Now, they have become integral in helping our local businesses get what they need to meet state guidelines and reopen."

Godfrey said many businesses called looking for thermometers, which the county did not have in stock. But New York state has now provided a very limited supply of thermometers that the county will make available on a first-come, first-served basis, with a limit of one thermometer

per business. Godfrey noted a shipment of hand sanitizer has arrived and is available as well.

Godfrey said those Niagara County businesses who would like to request a thermometer and/or hand sanitizer must fill out the business request form located at <https://www.niagaracounty.com/fire/>. Supplies are limited and will need to be picked up at the Public Safety Building in Lockport on Friday, June 19, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

### Youth Bureau summer food service program resumes

The Niagara County Youth Bureau is sponsoring the summer food service program (SFSP) and announced the open program site locations for 2020.

This program ensures that youth who are economically disadvantaged continue to receive nutritious meals during summer vacation. The meals provided are comparable to the national school breakfast and national school lunch programs given through districts during the school year.

SFSP is a federally funded program that provides free meals to all children at approved sites, which are located within areas that have significant concentrations of low-income youth. Free meals are provided to children age 18 and under. Acceptance and participation requirements

for the program and all activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of meal service.

"The Niagara County Youth Bureau has continuously worked to fill the needs in the community by providing the annual summer food service program. Providing free and nutritious meals through this program helps the youth of our county remain healthy throughout the summer months," said Ben Bunker, Youth Bureau director.

Free meals will be served weekdays at the following sites in Niagara County, with most sites beginning July 6.

√ North Tonawanda: Payne Park

√ Wheatfield: West Street Elementary School, Colonial Village Elementary School, Tuscarora Indian Elementary School

The Lockport and Niagara Falls school districts will be providing meals to their communities for summer 2020, in continuation of their COVID-19 distribution plans. Information for these plans can be found on each district's website.

Free meals will also be served at Kenmore/Tonawanda: Sheridan Parkside Community Center, Lincoln Park

Contact Bunker or Rodney Alaimo for further information, including specific dates and times of site operation, at 278-6873.

Additional sites may be added throughout summer.

### Household hazardous waste voucher program launches

The Niagara County Department of Public Works on Friday announced the launch of a household hazardous waste residential voucher program. Niagara County residents will be able to dispose of up to 50 pounds of acceptable waste at no cost.

"Many residents have used this time during the COVID-19 pandemic to clean out their garages and basements and now have household chemical waste to get rid of" said Legislator Will Collins, chairman of the county's infrastructure committee. "DPW developed this free voucher service as a way to help people properly dispose of these materials."

Niagara County Environmental Coordinator Dawn Timm said residents just need to go to [www.rethinkyourwaste.com](http://www.rethinkyourwaste.com), select events and follow the link "Apply for voucher." Once they enter all the required information, they can choose a date to drop the waste off at Hazman, located in the City of Tonawanda.

"We developed this program to be as convenient as possible for residents, while still following all the guidelines for the pandemic," said Timm, who noted the vouchers are being funded by Niagara County and the state Department of Environmental Conservation. "We want to encourage people

to responsibly dispose of this waste."

Timm said acceptable materials include oil-based paints, fluorescent bulbs, spray paint, aerosols, paint thinners and stains, cleaners, pesticides gasoline, acids/bases, glues/resins/adhesives, and mercury devices. All weight over 50 pounds and all latex paint is subject to a 75-cents-per-pound fee. Alkaline batteries, fire extinguishers, propane tanks, electronics, tires, smoke detectors and waste oil will be accepted, but with additional fees.

Those with questions should call Hazman at 998-8073 or email [recycling@niagaracounty.com](mailto:recycling@niagaracounty.com).

### SBA, Treasury announce new PPP 'EZ' forgiveness application

Revised full forgiveness applications also available

On Wednesday, the U.S. Small Business Administration, in consultation with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, posted a revised, user-friendly Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness application implementing the PPP Flexibility Act of 2020.

In addition to revising the full forgiveness application, the SBA also published a new "EZ" version of the forgiveness application applying to borrowers who:

√ Are self-employed and have no employees; or  
√ Did not reduce the salaries or wages of their employees by more than 25%, and did not re-

duce the number or hours of their employees; or

√ Experienced reductions in business activity as a result of health directives related to COVID-19 and did not reduce the salaries or wages of their employees by more than 25%

"This is great news for small businesses," said SBA Regional Administrator Steve Bulger, who oversees agency operations in the Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic regions. "The EZ application requires fewer calculations and less documentation, which makes the process much less intimidating. I'm sure this will go a long way toward improving access and helping us distribute the remaining PPP appropriations to support small business owners and their employees."

SEE SBA, continued on Page 3

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