



SITUATION REPORT FOR NEW YORK STATE
6 July 2020

GENERAL SITUATION

International students who are pursuing degrees in the United States will have to leave the country or risk deportation if their universities switch to online-only courses, Immigration and Customs Enforcement announced today. The move may affect thousands of foreign students who come to the United States to attend universities or participate in training programs, as well as non-academic or vocational studies. The statement said that "*The U.S. Department of State will not issue visas to students enrolled in schools and/or programs that are fully online for the fall semester nor will U.S. Customs and Border Protection permit these students to enter the United States*". The agency suggested that students currently enrolled in the US should consider taking other measures, like transferring to a school with in-person instruction. There's an exception for universities taking a hybrid model, such as a mix of online and in-person classes.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is planning to release new guidance on how K-12 students can physically return to the classroom this year. The recommendation was presented internally to leaders at the CDC early last week and is "a priority this week," according to CDC.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo today brought up reopening the state's schools in the fall. He called that decision "uncertain" and a "fluid situation". He said no decision has been made yet, but noted, "We obviously very much would like to". Cuomo said that he has asked all school districts in the state to "come up with a reopening plan". The governor cautioned, however, that just because schools have a plan, that does not mean that they will reopen.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said today that New York City continues to meet the thresholds to continue moving forward with reopening. New York City entered phase three reopening today, but unlike other areas, phase three in the city will not include indoor dining. Personal car services and some recreational activities are allowed to reopen. He also said that mass transit usage is going up substantially faster than car traffic.

Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont said today that while the Covid-19 numbers in Connecticut continue to trend in the right direction, the state is pausing on moving forward with phase three of their reopening plan, which means keeping bars closed and restaurants at 50% capacity. Lamont also announced that the state would be pausing on increasing the capacity of outdoor gatherings beyond 100 people.

NEW YORK STATE

Virtual [Community Calendar](#)- Virtual events, community info and more.

Numerous marches continue to be held in and around NYC.

For updated announcements search @justiceforgeorgency on social media.

The State is progressively applying the [Reopening New York](#) plan. Most of the State is now in phase 4. Capital Region, Mid-Hudson and Long Island are in phase 3. New York City is in phase 3.

The Mayor of New York has set up the [COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund](#), with donations going to support healthcare workers and essential staff, local small businesses, displaced hourly workers, families, youth and vulnerable New Yorkers.

For a full list of NYC City Agency service updates see:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/nyc-resources/city-agency-service-updates.page>

HEALTHCARE UPDATES

If you think you need a COVID-19 test in the State of New York, start here:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-testing>

Find a test site near you: [click here](#)

Parents: know the signs of Paediatric Multi-Symptom Inflammatory Syndrome to protect your child. Learn more: <https://on.nyc.gov/2T8Lybn>

Notify NYC alerts in العربية, বাংলা, 中文, Français, Kreyòl Ayisyen, Italiano, 한국어, Polski, Русский, Español, اردو, עברית: <https://on.nyc.gov/change-language>.

To refer your friends and family to this service please visit
<https://a858-nycnotify.nyc.gov/notifnyc/Home/ReferAFriend>.

The state is partnering with the Kate Spade New York Foundation and Crisis Text Line to provide a 24/7 emotional support service for frontline health care workers: workers can text NYFRONTLINE to 741-741 to access these emotional support services.

MASS TRANSIT

Amtrak (updates during COVID-19):

https://www.amtrak.com/coronavirus?intcmp=wsp_hp-hero_link_service-updates_frame1

MTA – Subway, Bus, Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North

The Subway has resumed regular weekday service, though there continues to be no service between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.

Busses are running at regular weekday / closed school service.

LIRR and MetroNorth are progressively increasing services.

While ridership remains lower than normal levels, the MTA is encouraging riders to avoid the rush-hour commute if they can.

<http://www.mta.info/?oldsite=true>

NY Department of Motor Vehicles (transactions and services impacted by COVID-19):

<https://dmv.ny.gov/offices>

NY Department of Motor Vehicles (online transactions):

<https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/all-online-transactions>

NY Department of Motor Vehicles (cancellations, closings and delays):

<https://dmv.ny.gov/contact-us/cancellations-closings-and-delays>

Access-A-Ride: <https://new.mta.info/accessibility/paratransit>

NYC Ferry: <https://www.ferry.nyc/>

TRAVEL

Travel Advisories: The U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>

Country Specific Information from the U.S. Dep. of State:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/COVID-19-Country-Specific-Information.html>

Flight / hotel / cruise reservations change and cancellation policies: (scroll down)

https://help.amextravel.com/service/?inav=travel_help2#/articles/872/61/25689

Flight cancellations by region and airline:

<https://www.airfarewatchdog.com/blog/50105499/covid-19-flight-cancellations-by-region-and-airline/#europe>

Flight waivers and refund policies by airline:

<https://www.airfarewatchdog.com/blog/50104455/covid-19-flight-waivers-and-refund-policies-by-airline/>

Here's how US airlines are handling social distancing on flights:

- Delta Air Lines said it would cap capacity at 50% in first class and 60% in other classes. That's the furthest formal step of the largest US airlines.
- American Airlines is reducing the number of middle seats it makes available for customers to select. The airline has announced that half of the middle seats are generally off-limits and it "will only use those middle seats when necessary". It will also allow passengers to move to another seat in their class once all passengers are onboard.
- United is also making some middle seats unavailable for customers to select. But the company is also not reducing capacity on flights, so a passenger could be given a middle or adjacent seat. When seats are in groups of two, the airline says it will place customers in alternating spots – for example, window in one row, aisle in the next row.
- Southwest Airlines, the only major carrier without assigned seats or different cabin classes, as of this weekend, is under-selling each flight by "roughly a third". That allows each middle seat to potentially remain empty. But CEO Gary Kelly said the airline does not plan to mandate that all middle seats remain empty.
- Frontier announced that it is taking a different approach. It will allow customers to buy out the middle seat in their row, guaranteeing some level of distancing. Prices start at \$39 per flight.