

From: "Senator Daphne Jordan" <jordan@nysenate.gov>

Date: Friday, May 01, 2020 05:51PM

Subject: Weekly Wrap: Supporting residential construction, COVID-19 testing update & free facemasks for Halfmoon residents

For Follow up:  Normal Priority.



Dear Friend:

It's been another busy week here in the 43rd Senate District. This Weekly Wrap for the week ending May 1, shares some of the latest news and updates about my continued efforts to reopen New York State in a careful, coordinated manner to help our displaced workers and restart our economy. This needs to be done in a careful, smart, sensible, and regional manner, business-by-business, sector-by-sector. In this Weekly Wrap, you'll read about my efforts to re-launch residential construction as part of a larger reopening plan. Also, there is important news regarding COVID-19 testing and details about a free facemask distribution for Halfmoon residents taking place tomorrow.

Unemployment – and the need for the growing backlog of unemployment claims to be processed – continues to be a major statewide issue. That's why my Weekly Wrap also contains information on pro bono legal services being provided by the New York State Bar Association to help displaced workers seeking to file their unemployment claims. In addition, you can always call my district office at (518) 371-2751 if I may be of assistance regarding unresolved unemployment claims or any other state matter.

Like you, I'm looking forward to the day when the COVID-19 outbreak is successfully behind us as we continue moving toward reopening our economy and communities, and finally resuming our normal daily activities. However, what we won't forget is the fact that so many individuals stepped forward – and stepped up – to help their fellow citizens during this incredibly difficult time. That's why I included another installment of "Hometown Heroes" for the 43rd Senate District in this Weekly Wrap to officially recognize the folks and businesses that are making a positive difference. Our community, citizens, and country are stronger than the Coronavirus! – **Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd District**

Advocating for the residential construction industry



Last Friday, I sent a letter to Governor Cuomo requesting that Empire State Development (ESD) consider residential and commercial construction an essential business and make this vital sector among the first industries to re-open. My Senate Republican colleagues Senator Jim Tedisco, Senator Pam Helming, Senator Tom O'Mara, Senator Joe Robach, Senator Rob Ortt, State Senator Patty Ritchie, Senator George Amedore, Senator George Borrello, and Senator Chris Jacobs all joined me and signed onto my letter that was issued. The very next day the Governor announced that construction would be opened in Phase One of a phased reopening. My press release with more details is below.

For Release: Friday, April 24, 2020

Senator Daphne Jordan and Senate Republicans write Governor Cuomo requesting that Empire State Development consider residential and commercial construction an essential business and make this vital sector among the first industries to re-open

Halfmoon, NY – Senator Daphne Jordan (R,C,I-Halfmoon) and members of the Senate Republican Conference today sent a letter to Governor Cuomo requesting that Empire State Development (ESD) consider residential and commercial construction an essential business and make this sector among the first industries to re-open in New York State as soon as feasible.

The letter is the latest in Senator Jordan and her Senate Republican colleagues' continued call for a careful, coordinated, regional re-opening of New York State's economy to help thousands of struggling small businesses, and more than one million New Yorkers that have filed for unemployment, many of whom are still waiting for assistance from the State Department of Labor.

“Our economy, citizens, small businesses, and communities are weathering an unprecedented and highly destructive economic storm. Many small businesses are facing potential financial ruin and displaced workers need, and want, to get back to work. We need to begin the careful, controlled, long-term effort to re-open New York and restart our economy – region-by-region, business-by-business – while remaining vigilant against COVID-19. Having the residential and commercial construction sectors, both of which are critically important in terms of job creation, deemed essential businesses by ESD is an important step in this effort,” Senator Jordan said.

Senators Jim Tedisco, Pam Helming, Tom O'Mara, Joe Robach, Rob Ortt, Patty Ritchie, George Amedore, George Borrello and Chris Jacobs all co-signed Senator Jordan's letter that was sent to the Governor last Friday.

In her correspondence, Senator Jordan and her Senate Republican colleagues wrote the following:

“We write on behalf of the many builders, remodelers, contractors, and construction companies that have contacted our offices requesting that Empire State Development (ESD) consider residential and commercial construction an essential business and make this sector among the first industries to re-open as soon as feasible. The residential building and remodeling industry remain uniquely positioned to implement social distancing protocols.

These vital sectors quickly instituted stringent safety protocols recommended by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). There also are important, noteworthy distinctions between Capital Region (upstate) construction sites and those in New York City. Workers in the former locales are most often in open spaces. On many Capital Region (upstate) residential sites, no more than one or two trades operate at one time, and workers typically do not utilize elevators, share tools, or travel in large groups. We also share concerns posited by many in the residential construction sector questioning why if building affordable housing is presently safe to pursue, then why not other housing and construction? This question deserves an answer.

Furthermore, extensive loans taken out for building projects typically have significant interest payments which serve as an incentive to finish projects expeditiously to pay-off the loan. The present hold-up in moving ahead with residential construction projects in New York State is raising these costs significantly as the maxim “time is money” is especially true in the residential construction sector where projects are time sensitive.

According to NAHB, if the residential construction industry cannot resume working in May – which is one week away – the direct effect of eliminating housing starts entirely for two months would result in the following serious negative economic outcomes in the residential construction sector:

- \$450.5 million reduction in wages and salaries paid to workers;
- \$247 million reduction in income for small business owners in the residential construction sector; and
- 8,541 jobs lost.

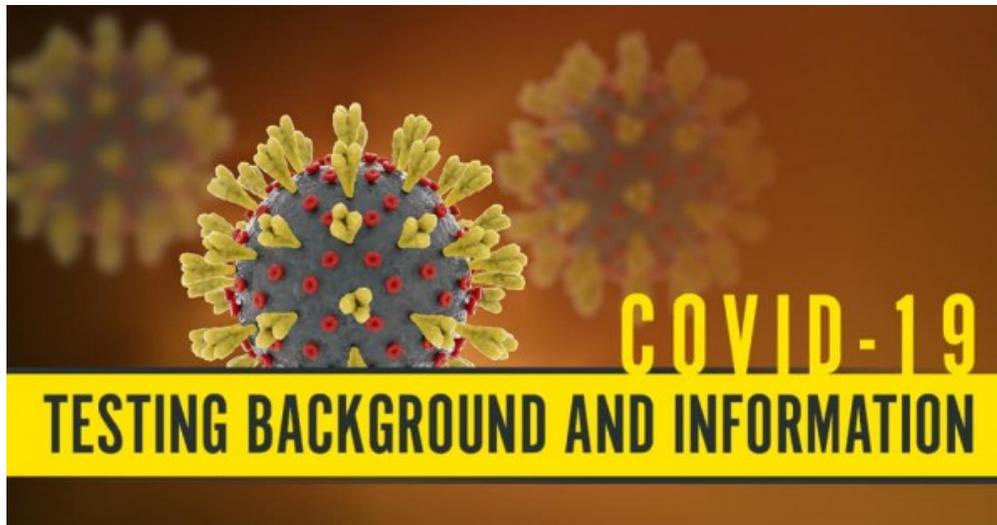
Furthermore, NAHB’s Local impact of Home Building Model estimates the “ripple effects” (ancillary businesses and industry sectors affected) associated with eliminating housing starts in April and May also would include the following impacts for our state:

- \$349.1 million reduction in wages and salaries paid to workers;
- \$84.7 million reduction in income for small business owners; and
- 7,058 jobs lost.

With our state weathering unprecedented economic challenges, many small businesses at risk of permanently going out of business, and over a million New Yorkers filing for unemployment, we face a devastating financial storm. It is imperative that ESD classifies residential construction an essential business and allows these companies to resume their productive operations as soon as feasible.”

A copy of Senator Jordan’s correspondence sent to Governor Cuomo can be found [here](#).

Additional COVID-19 testing



Additional testing will obviously be crucial as we work to overcome the tremendous public health challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. While the state's plans for testing are still being modified and updated on an ongoing basis — and while there are still a number of unanswered questions about the implementation of testing across the state — the State Department of Health does have information on their website that might be helpful.

If you want to know more about testing, would like to take an online assessment to see if you should ask to be tested, or to contact officials to find a nearby testing location, I encourage you to visit <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-testing>. By staying informed, and continuing to work together, I know that we will overcome the major challenges we face.

Tomorrow: Free facemasks for Halfmoon residents



Halfmoon Town Supervisor Kevin Tollisen announced there will be a town-wide distribution of facemasks tomorrow, Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to noon (there are limited supplies). Halfmoon residents are welcome to come to the Town complex, drive up, show ID that they live in the Town of Halfmoon, and they will be handed a white cloth mask free of charge. This is a service of the Town of Halfmoon in coordination with Saratoga County Office of Emergency Services. My thanks to Supervisor Tollisen, the Halfmoon Town Board, and the Saratoga County Office of Emergency Services for providing these free facemasks!

Requesting 2,000-5,000 COVID-19 testing kits, PPE, and antibody testing for Saratoga County



On Tuesday, I took the lead in writing the Governor requesting 2,000-5,000 COVID-19 testing kits, PPE, and antibody testing for Saratoga County. More testing is such an important step toward the safe, sensible, regional re-opening of New York, as I've been calling for.

My colleagues Senator Jim Tedisco, Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh, Assemblyman Dan Stec, and Assemblymember John McDonald all signed onto my letter to the Governor as we advocated for Saratoga County to receive these important testing and PPE resources. My press release with additional details is below.

For Release: Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Senator Daphne Jordan writes to Governor Cuomo requesting 2,000 – 5,000 COVID-19 test kits for Saratoga County and for the state's assistance with securing PPE, nursing staff, and antibody testing

Albany, NY – Senator Daphne Jordan (R,C,I-Halfmoon) today wrote Governor

Cuomo requesting 2,000 to 5,000 COVID-19 test kits for Saratoga County. Also signing onto Senator Jordan's letter to the Governor were Senator Jim Tedisco (R,C,I-Glenville), Assemblyman Dan Stec (R,C,I-Queensbury), Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh (R,C,I-Ballston), and Assemblymember John T. McDonald III.

Senator Jordan and her fellow state legislators, all of whom represent a portion of Saratoga County, also asked for state assistance in securing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health care workers and nursing staff to help with the administration of the requested 2,000 – 5,000 COVID-19 test kits.

Senator Jordan's letter also asked for the inclusion of an antibody testing site in Saratoga County.

“COVID-19 has claimed the lives of our fellow New Yorkers and presented countless challenges to our health care infrastructure, as well as federal, state, and local government. As of this weekend, 4,603 – out of approximately 230,000 – people in Saratoga County have been tested for COVID-19. Without question, an expansion of COVID-19 testing is of paramount importance for Saratoga County, which is why I wrote the Governor requesting 2,000 to 5,000 COVID-19 test kits for our County, and more state assistance with PPE, nursing staff, and guidance to help Saratoga County administer these crucial tests. I also asked for the state to include an antibody testing site in Saratoga County,” Senator Jordan said.

“A rapid expansion of COVID-19 test kits, more PPE, an expansion of nursing staff, and establishment of an antibody testing site is crucial to helping ensure the health and safety of Saratoga County residents and ultimately aiding our community in successfully moving past this pandemic. I want to again commend our fantastic Saratoga County frontline health care, emergency services, and first responder personnel for all they have done, and continue doing, to help keep us safe during the outbreak. My request today will help support their courageous efforts and months of tireless hard work,” Senator Jordan said.

In the correspondence to Governor Cuomo, Senator Jordan and her colleagues wrote the following:

“We write in strong support of Saratoga County's ongoing effort to acquire 2,000 to 5,000 COVID-19 testing kits from New York State. As of Saturday, April 25, there have been 4,603 people tested in Saratoga County, which has

approximately 230,000 residents. Without question, there is a clear and compelling need to ramp up local testing.

Saratoga County has already identified a location for a potential testing site, can provide security, and has some medical staff readily available to assist with the implementation of this testing. However, Saratoga County would need state support with nursing staff, PPE, and further guidance from the state. Also, the inclusion of an antibody testing site would be most welcome for Saratoga County as we continue moving forward.

Governor, Saratoga County's frontline emergency services, health care, and first responder personnel have worked tirelessly throughout this crisis, always going above and beyond the call of duty and putting themselves at risk to protect and serve others. The provision of these requested resources – COVID-19 test kits, PPE, nursing staff, state guidance, and antibody testing – will help Saratoga County succeed in its vital mission of protecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of all County residents from the Coronavirus.

Thank you for your attention to our request made on behalf of the Saratoga County families that we proudly serve and represent.”

A copy of Senator Jordan's correspondence sent to Governor Cuomo can be found [here](#).

Domestic violence is NEVER acceptable, new resource is available to help



Unfortunately, there has been a rise in domestic violence reports during this pandemic. Many abuse victims are trapped in isolation with their abusers, making it difficult for them to reach out to the state domestic violence hotline for help.

To address this serious issue, New York State has launched a new 24/7 texting program and confidential online service. If you need help, please text 844-997-2121 or visit <http://opdv.ny.gov>. Abuse is a serious matter under any circumstances, and it is important to remember you are not alone. Please text 844-997-2121, or go to <http://opdv.ny.gov> if you need help.

Help with unemployment claims



As the unacceptable backlog of state unemployment claims continues, pro bono legal help via the New York State Bar Association is available to assist individuals. My Senate Republican colleagues and I have continued our call for the State Department of Labor to clear the bureaucratic backlog and get unemployment assistance to those who have applied and are still waiting — some have waited several weeks now. The link to NYSBA free unemployment claim legal services is <https://nysba.org/unemployment-insurance-relief/>.

Telehealth virtual visits via Columbia Memorial Health



CMH Wants You To Stay **SAFE** in the **SAFETY** of your home!

CMH is providing fast and easy **Telehealth Virtual Visits** from the comfort of your home. Get the medical attention you need from your mobile device or computer.

- **Primary and Specialty Care:** Do you have a cold, are your allergies acting up, maybe you have a follow up appointment with your physician? CMH telehealth virtual visits will allow you the medical attention you need from your primary or specialty care provider right from your mobile device or computer. **Call your primary or specialty care provider today to sign up.**
- **CMH Rapid Care:** CMH Rapid Care telehealth virtual visits are for all patients new and returning. Our goal is to meet all your urgent care needs in the safest and most efficient manner. Our emergency room trained providers will now be able to treat you at home on your mobile device or computer in addition to in person visits at our two locations. **Call 518-758-4300 to set up your visit!**
- **Psychiatric and Psychotherapy Center:** CMH Psychiatric & Psychotherapy Center offers telehealth virtual visits with a trained psychotherapist who will assess your issues, identify treatment goals and work with you to achieve those goals.

For new clients, please contact your Primary Care provider for a referral, or **call our office at 518-697-8010 to register for services.** We will contact you for further information and to assign you to the next available therapist.



Columbia Memorial Health
71 Prospect Ave, Hudson NY
518.828.7601
www.ColumbiaMemorialHealth.org



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Telehealth Virtual Visits from the comfort of your own home is a terrific health care resource that's being made available by Columbia Memorial Health (CMH) to help individuals! Call your primary or specialty care provider

today to sign up. More details are included in the image above or by calling CMH at (518) 828-7601. Thank you to CMH for providing this wonderful service!

Proudly Raising the Flag!



I was glad to secure a new American Flag for my good friend Patrice Patsy Leader, Kinderhook Town Supervisor. The new Flag was flown over our State Capitol and replaced the Town's previous one that had become tattered. Pictured above raising the Flag are Frank Bevins, Deputy Mayor for the Village of Valatie, Kinderhook Town Supervisor Patrice Leader, and my office Manager Laurie Hurst Huneau. God bless our Flag and all who serve to protect it!

Recognizing More Hometown Heroes for the 43rd Senate District



I'm happy to continue recognizing the FANTASTIC Hometown Heroes from the 43rd Senate District who continue stepping up to help during the COVID-19 outbreak. Thank you to Domino's Pizza, Momentive Performance Materials, Michael Raucci, Mechanicville Superintendent of Schools Bruce Potter, High School Principal Michael Mitchell, and Mechanicville High School Cafeteria Crew, Joseph Forget, and Saratoga Five Points Market & Deli. You are all true Hometown Heroes for the 43rd Senate District!

Domino's Pizza, Halfmoon

Domino's Pizza of Halfmoon has delivered pizzas to the Saratoga County Emergency Command Center and Clifton Park-Halfmoon EMS to show appreciation and support for our courageous workers serving on the front lines of health care, emergency response, and protecting Saratoga County residents from the Coronavirus.

Momentive Performance Materials, Waterford

Momentive Performance Materials supplied the Town of Halfmoon with 100 face masks for its public workforce.

Momentive is also making parts needed for ventilators and surgical supplies for area hospitals. The Chairman and CEO of Momentive personally purchased 300,000 masks for use in our community.

Michael Raucci, Mechanicville Superintendent of Schools Bruce Potter, High School Principal Michael Mitchell, and Mechanicville High School Cafeteria Crew

Michael Raucci, Mechanicville Superintendent of Schools Bruce Potter, High School Principal Michael Mitchell, and the Mechanicville High School Cafeteria Crew provided a delicious Easter Dinner for 275 Halfmoon residents. In addition to their hard work, the special dinner was made possible by local businesses that participated in this effort, including New Country Toyota of Clifton Park, Ravenswood, G.A. Bove and Sons, and the Dyer Family. The Mechanicville Fire Department and Mechanicville Police Department provided the staging area to pick up meals.

Joseph Forget, Waterford

Joseph generously cooked gallons of soup and gave it away to anyone who could use a hot meal last week. From Joseph's Facebook page: Depression soup kitchen reopening on Thursday April 30, where-Waterford knights of Columbus 76 Grace Street Waterford. Time 4-7 p.m. Pick up your soup in the parking lot or we will deliver by calling 518-801-2506. I want to make sure people who can't get out, that we provide healthy, warm soup to them. We will accept calls starting at 3 p.m. for delivery only!!! Soup options-hearty beef vegetable, chicken noodle & the ever-popular broccoli cheese soup all served w/ crackers.

Saratoga Five Points Market & Deli, Saratoga Springs

Saratoga Five Points Market & Deli is graciously providing a free bag lunch on Saturday and Sunday. People in the neighborhood are donating the funds to help

make this special project a reality to ensure that individuals across the community continue having access to nutritious food.

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518-371-2751



THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE

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