

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

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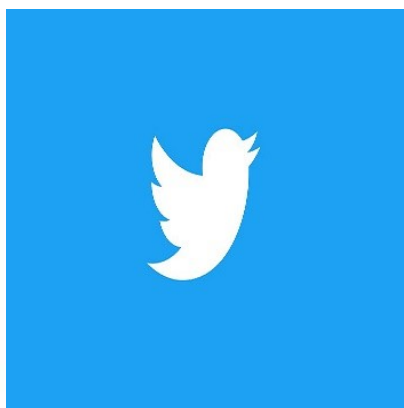
Subject: Weekly Wrap: Capital Region gets greenlight to reopen, protecting nursing home residents & MORE!



Dear Friend:

Welcome to the May 22 edition of my Weekly Wrap. This week's wrap details some of the latest news you can use and my ongoing efforts to re-open the economy, protect our most vulnerable citizens, and ensure accountability at the State Department of Labor. You'll also read about an expansion of COVID-19 testing, my recognition of EMS Week, and some welcome news regarding the Saratoga racing season. I've also included a link to my special Memorial Day 2020 video message honoring America's fallen. We owe everything to the men and women of our armed forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom. May God bless all of America's heroes this Memorial Day, and every day, as we remember and reflect upon their sacrifices. – **Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd District**

Contact and Connect with Me





If I can help, call me at (518) 371-2751, e-mail me at jordan@nysenate.gov or visit my Senate webpage www.jordan.nysenate.gov. You can also contact my district office at **1580 Columbia Turnpike Building 2, Suite 1, Castleton-On-The-Hudson, NY 12033**. If you're on social media, you can connect with me on **Facebook (Senator Daphne Jordan)**, **Instagram (Senator_Jordan)**, and **Twitter (NY Senator Jordan)**. I often post breaking news and important updates on social media, so be sure to like, follow, and visit my Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages!

Real Results: Capital Region Re-opening



The Capital Region is finally ready to get back to business and has been cleared for re-open under Phase 1 (now that we have enough contact tracers). This is exactly what I've called for these past several weeks and I'm glad that Governor Cuomo finally listened. My advocacy delivered real results!

It's so important that state government work with struggling small businesses to give them the relief and support they need – and get help to unemployed workers and ultimately get them back on the job, working. It's not enough to just re-open and bring our economy back,

we need it back stronger than ever! Read more about our Capital Region re-opening here:
<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/.../capital-region-to-reopen-we...>

Important Coronavirus Update: More New Yorkers Eligible for COVID-19 Testing



As certain regions of New York State begin their reopening process, maintaining proper health and safety protocols are of paramount importance. At the core of that is regularly testing New Yorkers for coronavirus.

Over the past weekend, the State Department of Health outlined a new, expanded list of New Yorkers who are now eligible for coronavirus testing. That list includes:

- Any individual who has COVID-19 symptoms;
- Any individual who has had contact with a person known to be positive with COVID-19;
- Any individual who is subject to a cautionary or mandatory quarantine;
- Any individual who is employed as a health care worker, nursing home worker or first responder;
- Any essential worker who directly interacts with the public while working; and
- Any individual who would return to the workplace during Phase 1 of reopening.

Getting our communities and state up and running again is going to take time, effort, and a commitment to ensuring that we work diligently to limit the spread of the coronavirus. I

know that by working together and remaining committed, we can succeed in accomplishing these common goals. For more details on testing sites, visit this link:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>

Recognizing National EMS Week



This week marked the 46th annual “National EMS Week.” In 1974, President Gerald Ford authorized EMS Week to celebrate EMS practitioners and the critical work they do in protecting and serving our communities. The week seeks to recognize the important contributions of EMS practitioners – the men and women serving on the frontlines of safeguarding the health, safety, and wellbeing of our communities. Thank you to all our EMS heroes for everything you’ve done in stepping up and serving during the COVID-19 outbreak and beyond. We are thankful for your service!

Capital Region Guide to Reopening via Capital Region Chamber



Earlier this week, I received some information from my friend Pete Bardunias at the Capital Region Chamber, about re-opening New York that I’m sharing below:

As we get closer to the reopening of the Capital Region, please note that the guidelines and templates for doing so are being developed at the State level and passed down to our communities.

Here is a comprehensive links page which has the necessary information as well as resources for businesses with questions: https://capitalregionchamber.com/reopening/?fbclid=IwAR2r45yFggPOAYIFycYVrLCnpgKxPXF2mkokhMXodpH_VNtaxJ5MKsyZGfw

Sign My Petition to Fix the Department of Labor’s Unemployment Disaster

FIX THE UNEMPLOYMENT DISASTER NOW!



NO MORE EXCUSES!

NY State must take action to fix the backlog of unemployment insurance claims and get people the money they are owed right now.

**SCROLL DOWN TO SIGN THE
PETITION**

My office continues receiving daily emails and calls from individuals in my 43rd Senate District who have lost their jobs and STILL haven't received any unemployment benefits. Some have been waiting weeks for a simple call back from the State Department of Labor (DOL).

We need to fix the state's broken, disastrous unemployment system to ensure this massive backlog and breakdown never happens again.

If you support this effort, you can sign my petition at the link below. Over 5,000 New

Yorkers (and growing!) already have added their name to the petition in support of fixing the DOL disaster. Let's fix the problems at Cuomo's DOL and get folks the help they need! Sign my petition at this link: <https://fixdoldisaster.com>.

Standing up for Seniors



Wednesday, my Senate colleagues and I demanded that Governor Cuomo and the State Department of Health step up their focus on protecting nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult day care from COVID-19, instead of implementing blame-shifting, potentially bankrupting mandates on already stressed and underfunded facilities. After partially reversing course on a lethal directive that sent coronavirus positive nursing home patients from hospitals back into these facilities, Governor Cuomo has now imposed arbitrary, twice weekly testing requirements on nursing homes, assisted living, and adult day care facility staff across the state without providing any funding or resources to make the requirements a reality.

Facilities would have to pay as much as \$150 per coronavirus test. The state recommended staffers use drive-thru testing sites, which do not exist in every part of the state and are intended for use by residents. The Governor has also suggested nursing home staff visit CVS, Rite Aid, or a doctor, though insurance does not cover repeated testing that is not medically mandated. Nursing homes also reported that state labs currently lack the capacity to process twice weekly tests, and many expressed health concerns for staffers over the repeated use of nasopharyngeal swabs.

In a rural upstate area, one home would have to purchase 218 tests at a cost of \$104.95 a week, totaling \$45,758. A nursing home in Commack, Long Island estimated the tests will cost \$300,000 a week. The state provided 320,000 testing kits this week to nursing homes, but that isn't nearly enough to cover this twice a week requirement for the entire statewide nursing home workforce and without any clear plan released, it's unknown if the state will continue distribution at this scale. That's why I'm calling on the state to immediately:

- Provide all necessary test kits directly to the facilities scrambling to access them;

- Utilize the National Guard to assist in administering tests and cleansing facilities to provide critical relief;
- Use short swab or saliva tests;
- Provide PPE to nursing homes, long term care and adult day care facilities;
- Create a long-term care specific staffing pool; and
- Enact a plan to create regional facilities for COVID positive nursing home patients.

Our nursing home, assisted living facility and adult daycare staff has been working tirelessly, around the clock, to care for our most vulnerable population. This new testing requirement severely limits their abilities to do their jobs to the best of their capabilities. Rest assured, I'll continue advocating for the health, safety, and well-being of all senior citizens.

My Memorial Day Video Message



With Monday being Memorial Day, a special, solemn, sacred day when we remember and honor America's fallen, it's vital that we reflect upon the incredible sacrifices of our armed forces—especially those who gave all—that have made our way of life possible. Their courage, character, dedication, duty, and devotion continue to light the way forward during this difficult time for so many Americans. God bless the men and women of our military who've made the ultimate sacrifice so that we may be free. America owes these heroes everything, and we remember them this Memorial Day and every day. You can watch my special Memorial Day video message at my Senate webpage:

<https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/video/daphne-jordan/memorial-day-2020-video-message-senator-daphne-jordan-honors-americas>.



Update on Horse Racing in Saratoga this Summer



Earlier this week I received some good news from the New York Racing Association (NYRA) regarding horse racing and our equine industry. I'm sharing NYRA's news release below. Of course, racing with fans would be the first choice because it helps generate tourism, brings in millions in revenue for the City and the County, and supports Saratoga Springs businesses. And because a day at the races is so much fun! I'll continue advocating for our horse racing industry that's so crucial to our economy and our way of life.

Statement from NYRA President & CEO Dave O'Rourke

"NYRA and the New York racing community are thankful for Governor Cuomo's steady leadership throughout this public health crisis and we applaud his decision to authorize the resumption of horse racing, without fans, beginning on June 1," said NYRA President and CEO Dave O'Rourke. "This is a reasoned and responsible decision by Governor Cuomo that will enable horse racing to resume in a way that prioritizes health and safety while recognizing that NYRA is the cornerstone of an industry responsible for 19,000 jobs and \$3 billion in annual economic impact.

"We look forward to the resumption of live racing at Belmont Park with all appropriate health and safety protocols in place to support the hundreds of small businesses, family-owned farms and thousands of hourly workers who form the backbone of thoroughbred racing in New York.

"NYRA has developed a comprehensive safety plan that builds on our experience of operating training safely and responsibly during the pandemic, and includes extensive protocols to keep our community safe.

"With this safety plan in place, NYRA will announce race dates and a corresponding stakes schedule for the 2020 spring/summer meet at Belmont Park in the very near future.

"The Governor has reiterated during these challenging times that sports provide much needed entertainment for New Yorkers. Thanks to Governor Cuomo and his team, fans across New York and around the country can look forward to the return of horse racing from beautiful Belmont Park."

Advocating for Lebanon Valley Speedway to Re-Open



On May 19, I again wrote Governor Cuomo advocating for Lebanon Valley Speedway to re-open so local racers could test and tune their vehicles without spectators. Howard Commander, owner of Lebanon Valley Speedway, asked for my help in urging the Governor to allow this beloved local venue to re-open for this weekend. Unfortunately, as of this Weekly Wrap's writing, the Governor still hasn't budged. The Governor's mandated shutdown has already cost Lebanon Valley Speedway over \$200,000 and, unless the administration acts soon, the entire racing season could be in jeopardy. Incredibly, the Governor has already granted Watkins Glen permission to re-open June 1. It's an unjustifiable double standard for Governor Cuomo to continue forcing Lebanon Valley Speedway to remain closed and I urged him to rethink his decision. You can read my most recent letter to the Governor urging the re-opening of Lebanon Valley Speedway here: <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/daphne-jordan/senator-daphne-jordan-again-advocates-re-opening-lebanon>.

Honoring More Hometown Heroes for the 43rd Senate District



Proud to again recognize some terrific [#HometownHeroes](#) from my 43rd Senate District for all they're doing to help the community and celebrate our heroic frontline health care workers.

Thank you, Captain Matthew Sala, and Saratoga Subaru!



I'm proud to again recognize some terrific [#HometownHeroes](#) from my 43rd Senate District for all they're doing to help the community and celebrate our heroic frontline health care workers during the COVID-19 outbreak. Thank you, Captain Matthew Sala, and Saratoga Subaru, more details on these two [#HometownHeroes](#) are below!

Captain Matt Sala, Halfmoon

Halfmoon resident Captain Matthew Sala was at the controls during the Capital District flyover honoring essential workers on Tuesday, May 12. The New York National Guard 109th Airlift Wing recently flew over Saratoga, Troy, Albany and so many more Capital Region communities to salute all the hospitals and frontline healthcare professionals working there and across our region.

Saratoga Subaru

Saratoga Subaru and Subaru of America have donated 51,153 meals to Feeding America helping those affected by COVID-19 in the Capital Region. This donation helps Feeding America respond to increased food insecurity in Upstate New York by donating to the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, who will then distribute to smaller food pantries locally. In total, Subaru of America is donating 50 million meals to Feeding America and their 200-member food banks across the country.

Albany Office:

District Office:

508 Legislative Office Bldg
Albany, NY 12247
518-455-2381

1580 Columbia Tpke, Bldg 2 Ste 1
Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033
518-371-2751



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