COVID-19: The Numbers

More than 393,000 confirmed cases in New York state; more than 215,000 cases in New York City

More than 32,000 deaths in New York state; more than 70,000 people have recovered

More than 2.6 million cases in the U.S.; more than 127,500 deaths; nearly 720,000 people have recovered

Globally, more than 10.5 million cases; more than 512,000 deaths

From Johns Hopkins University (as of July 1)

New York expands travelers’ coronavirus quarantine

Travelers to New York from eight more states must quarantine for 14 days under a new directive from Gov. Andrew Cuomo.


Last week, the governors ordered a 14-day self-
quarantine for travelers coming from Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Utah.

Business travelers and people at vehicle rest stops or with layovers at airports, bus terminals and train stations are exempt.

While self-quarantine is voluntary, Cuomo has said that violators will face mandatory quarantine and could be fined thousands of dollars.

New York, New Jersey and Connecticut put the measures in place to limit the spread of coronavirus from states in the southern and western U.S. experiencing spikes in COVID-19 infection rates. States with 10 positive cases per 100,000 residents, or if 10 percent of their total population is infected, are eligible for the list.

Meanwhile, Cuomo has delayed indoor dining in New York City as the city prepares to enter Phase 3 of reopening next week. According to public health experts, the coronavirus spreads much more easily in crowded indoor settings like bars and restaurants.

“Now is not the time to forge ahead,” New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio told reporters June 29. “Indoors is the problem; the science is showing it more and more.”

Tell the Senate to approve the Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act!

The push by UUP members to urge their U.S. senators to support the HEROES Act—which passed the House but has stalled in the Senate—has picked up steam.

On July 1, Senate Democrats put forward a major coronavirus relief and recovery package—the Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act—that includes nearly $345 billion for K-12 schools and higher education.

Sponsored by Sens. Chuck Schumer and Patty Murray (D-WA), the bill would provide $132 billion for higher education; an additional $33 billion in education aid would be left to governors to distribute.

The bill also includes $875 billion for state and local coronavirus relief; food security access for families and communities; nursing home resources; help for small businesses; and election security safeguards.
“The time is now,” said UUP President Fred Kowal. “It is crucial that our collective efforts succeed. Our nation, our state, our university, our union, our work and our students depend on us winning this fight.”

Here’s how you can help:

· **Send e-letters through an AFT web portal** telling your senators to support crucial pieces of the HEROES Act; those measures would send billions in federal dollars to states to fund public education, and police, firefighters, health care providers and other essential workers.

· Spread the word about the Senate Democrats bill on social media and in conversations with UUP members;

· Tell your senators to support the HEROES Act via AFT’s Action Link;

· **Distribute a fact sheet** on the Coronavirus Childcare Education and Relief Act;

· **Share AFT’s letter** from AFT President Randi Weingarten that urges the Senate to vote yes on the CCCERA;

· Share fact sheets, social media graphics and other materials from AFT’s All In website.

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**Take action!**

UUP members can continue to apply pressure and advocate for support for SUNY, communities, students and patients by taking three quick actions:

· Urge colleagues to sign a petition for SUNY to hold a virtual public hearing in July to address concerns about reopening campuses in the fall. **CLICK HERE** to sign the petition.

· Volunteer to call NYSUT and UUP members who live outside New York and push them to press U.S. senators to pass the HEROES Act. **CLICK HERE** to volunteer.

· Send e-letters to your state legislative leaders telling them to tax the ultra-rich. **CLICK HERE** to send an e-letter.

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**Sign up for a virtual NEO webinar**
UUP is hosting “UUP Benefits 101,” a series of new employee orientation webinars focusing on benefits and ways new members can maximize them.

The webinars, which begin July 9 and run through Aug. 26, will also cover the importance of becoming a UUP member. Director of Member Benefits Doreen Bango will lead the webinars.

New SUNY employees as of March 13 can attend the webinars. CLICK HERE to RSVP for the webinars; login information will be sent out the week of the event.

The webinar schedule is below:

- July 9: Noon and 6 p.m.
- July 20: Noon and 3:30 p.m.
- July 22: Noon and 6 p.m.
- Aug. 10: Noon and 3:30 p.m.
- Aug. 12: Noon and 6 p.m.
- Aug. 24: Noon and 3:30 p.m.
- Aug. 26: Noon and 6 p.m.

Delayed raises and a call for action

Contractually guaranteed raises to UUP members that would have started this month will instead be delayed to Sept. 30, a direct result of the coronavirus pandemic.

But a delay is unacceptable to UUP, so the union is taking a two-pronged approach to make sure that the raises come through as quickly as possible—especially as the state has also said the Sept. 30 date is subject to review, said UUP President Fred Kowal.

On July 1, the union filed a class-action grievance over the delay of the raises. Also, it is pressing federal and state lawmakers for emergency funding to SUNY to deliver the raises to UUP’s hard-working members, who have sacrificed so much during the pandemic—and in some cases have risked their lives.

“While we did not agree with or accept the state’s
decision, we understand that it is driven by the state budget crisis that has developed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,” Kowal said. “Still, we need answers and we need a partnership with SUNY to ensure our members’ concerns are addressed before reopening.”

Nearly 2,000 UUP members and SUNY employees have signed a UUP petition calling on SUNY to hold a virtual public hearing this month to discuss their financial and health concerns prior to returning to campus. CLICK HERE to sign the petition.

“This is about our students, our patients, our communities and our SUNY,” Kowal said. “We must invest in our public higher education institutions and public hospitals to combat the overwhelming health, economic and social justice crises that face us in New York and across the country.”

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**Kowal: What have we become?**

In a new commentary for WAMC radio, UUP President Fred Kowal discusses how the lack of leadership by the Trump administration regarding the coronavirus pandemic has plunged the country into chaos that could have—and should have—been avoided.

You can read and listen to the commentary, titled “What Have We Become?” by CLICKING HERE. WAMC is a National Public Radio station in Albany.

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**UUP virtual town halls**

UUP’s series of virtual town halls continues in July with conversations with state Assembly members from all over New York state.

The events are open to all UUP members.

The series continues with Assemblymember Monica Wallace (D-Lancaster) from 3-4 p.m. Thursday, July 9.

A virtual town hall with Assemblymember Patrick Burke (D-South Buffalo) is set from 6-7 p.m. Monday, July 13.

Email Celine Mell at cmell@uupmail.org to register for the town halls.
Sign the letter

UUP members are urged to sign a letter from the SUNY Black Faculty and Staff Collective demanding that SUNY act immediately to eliminate racial injustice on state university campuses.

In the June 19 letter, the group demands that SUNY take “immediate and meaningful action to deconstruct the present system and rebuild an academic space that is rooted in anti-racist ideology.”

“We, the SUNY Black Faculty and Staff Collective, join this lament and demand that SUNY address its own systemic racism and involve SUNY’s Black faculty and staff in all its decision-making processes,” the letter said. “We demand that the SUNY system ensures that we are as diverse, equitable and inclusive as we vocalize. There is no room for hollow platitudes. People’s lives are at stake. Our students’ lives are at stake.”

The letter requests that SUNY make changes in administration, curriculum and campus life.

CLICK HERE to sign the letter.

Get the Union Strong app

The NYS AFL-CIO has launched its “Union Strong” app, a new resource that will allow users to access important union news, updates and information.

The Union Strong app will serve as a new communications platform for local unions and members across the state, according to the state AFL-CIO.

The app is free to download. You can text nysaflcio to 555-888 or CLICK HERE to access a link to download the app.

UUP In Memoriam webpage

UUP remembers the active and retired members of our union family that we’ve lost to the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you know of a UUP member who has died due to COVID-19, please click the link below to enter their
information on UUP’s In Memoriam webpage.

CLICK HERE to fill out the In Memoriam form.

Enter the decedent’s name (first name, middle initial and last name), select their campus from a pull-down list, and include your email. You may also leave a short personal note about the deceased.

We will never forget our colleagues who were lost to the vicious virus known as COVID-19.

Not on the list? We can fix that

If you’re reading this newsletter and it’s not being emailed to you, that’s a problem.

Fortunately, it’s a problem we can easily fix.

To receive the UUPconnect: Coronavirus newsletter, email UUP Media & Publications Director Mike Lisi at mlisi@uupmail.org. We will add your email to our distribution list.

Follow Us @UUPinfo