

CORONAVIRUS BULLETIN

The latest news for MTA employees



March 21, 2020 – 3:00 PM

CHILD CARE

As we advised in the Thursday, March 19 issue of this bulletin, New York City has launched a new program that provides all MTA employees who have children who are NYC residents and attend either public or private schools, with free childcare at Department of Education locations. Of course, many of our dedicated family of MTA workers do not reside in New York City.

We have good news to share – Boards of Education in counties in MTA's service territory will start offering child care options to workers deemed “essential” by the State of New York. We know each of you is essential, and the State of New York has also recognized our workers as essential.

Child care options vary by county and district, so please visit the website below relevant to your school district, and contact them directly with any further questions.

Duchess & Putnam:

Child Care Council of Duchess and Putnam, Inc.

Website: <https://www.childcaredutchess.org/family-resources/findchildcare.html>

Phone: (845) 473-4141

Email: JBarbieri@childcarenassau.org

Nassau

Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc.

Website: <http://www.childcarenassau.org/>

Phone: (516) 358-9250, ext. 11

Email: JBarbieri@childcarenassau.org

Crest Hollow

Woodbury, NY

Phone: (516) 340 0707

Orange:

Child Care Council of Orange County, Inc.

Website: <https://www.orangecountygov.com/1938/COVID-19-Important-Questions-About-Servi>

Phone: (845) 294-4012

Email: Not available

Rockland:

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc.

Website: <http://www.childcarerockland.org/>

Phone: (845) 425-0009, ext. 417

Email: janeb@rocklandchildcare.org

Suffolk:

Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc.

Website: <http://www.childcaresuffolk.org/>

Phone: (646) 926-3784

Email: irojas@childcaresuffolk.org

Westchester:

Click [this link](#) for a list of all school districts providing child care.

For those who are residents of the five boroughs of New York City, here again is what you need to know.

New York City:

New York City has launched a new program that will provide all MTA employees who reside in NYC, and whose children attend school in the city, with free childcare at Department of Education locations. For our community members who are serving in these vital roles and have no other means of childcare, the New York City Department of Education is setting up Regional Enrichment Centers (RECs). RECs will open on Monday, March 23rd and operate from 7:30am to 6:00pm (Monday-Friday), and will ensure that students have access to remote learning as well as various art, music, and other activities. Program details include:

- Program will begin on March 23rd and centers will be open 7:30 am to 6:00 pm
- Regional centers will be in every school district in New York City and include early childcare through K-12
- Eligible for enrollment: 3-18 years of age and must be NYC residents
- If your child is a NYC resident and you would like to enroll in one of these centers, complete this form: [REC Enrollment Form](#)
- Please complete the form for each child you plan to enroll. You will then receive an email confirming your child's enrollment. Please do not email the DOE as they will not be able to respond to individual inquiries directly
- Remote instruction will be offered, 3 hot meals served a day; art, music and physical education will be provided
- Centers will be operated by dedicated Department of Education staff, as well as personnel from the department's partners at dozens of Community-Based Organizations
- Social distancing protocols will be followed at all regional centers, including maintaining 6 feet of distance between people and limiting classrooms to less than 12 students. Sites will be regularly cleaned and disinfected
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Regional Enrichment Centers (RECs) Overview

What is a Regional Enrichment Center (REC)?

A REC is a safe, enriching place created by the New York City Department of Education designed to alleviate the need for childcare during the city's COVID-19 response.

The approximately 100 RECs will each offer remote instruction, 3 hot meals a day, and childcare, along with art, music, and physical education. RECs include early childcare centers in addition to K-12 sites, and will be located in every school district.

The first tier of outreach will be to health care providers, first responders, and key transit workers. As we move forward we will seek to include additional other essential service providers and children in shelter.

In the best interest of our medically fragile students, we do not recommend they attend REC sites and are working with the Department of Health to ensure they have continuous medical services.

When will they open?

RECs will open for operation on Monday, March 23, 2020.

How can I enroll my child?

The DOE will be reaching out to first responders, transit and healthcare worker unions and partner organizations/agencies to help enroll their children through an easily accessible online form. A response will be generated back to the family with the offered site and we will prioritize geographical proximity to their residence.

What will a typical day look like?

Hours of Operation: 7:30 am – 6:00 pm

Tentative Program schedule:

- Morning: Remote Learning Opportunities
- Afternoon
 - Arts
 - PE & Sports (3-6pm)

How will you keep RECs safe?

The health and safety of staff members and students remains our highest priority. All social distancing protocols will be followed at RECs, including maintaining 6 feet of distance between people and limiting classrooms to less than 12 students. Anyone who is sick should stay home. Sites will be regularly cleaned and disinfected.

Who will be staffing these sites?

REC centers will be operated by dedicated DOE staff, as well as staff from our partners at dozens of Community-Based Organizations. We are grateful to the numerous DOE employees who have already offered to help staff these sites.