

## INSIDE

### Next Week's Calendar

Session scheduled for Monday - Thursday next week.

### Legislative News

Senate to host 8 Committee Meetings, with Assembly set to announce its own slate.

April public hearings added to calendar.

### Updates from the Governor

Lifting Travel Restrictions

NYC to Expand Indoor Dining Capacity

Funding for Addiction Services

### Agency News

Attorney General Appoints Special Investigator.

DFS Issues Warning.

NYSERDA Announces New Funding Awards.

*Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday:*

## One-House Bills On Deck; Fed Stimulus Signed

*Clocks move one hour ahead this weekend as we move another week closer to the March 31 State Budget deadline.*

*One-house proposals will likely be introduced over the weekend, establishing baseline positions on spending and associated policy proposals. This will signify the beginning of earnest budget negotiations between the houses and the Governor against the backdrop of escalating pressure on the Governor as he fields new allegations of sexual harassment and sexual assault and continued criticism regarding nursing home oversight and pandemic directives. In addition to the nursing home COVID policy concerns, a [media report](#) cited a similar order in place of Office for People with Development Disabilities (OPWDD) regulated group homes.*

**COVID update** - With the amount of available COVID vaccine increasing weekly, the Governor made announcements this week related to [expanded vaccine eligibility](#), eliminating travel quarantine requirements for domestic travel (see "From NYS Governor Cuomo"), and that as of Thursday, a little over 10 percent of the state's population had been [fully vaccinated](#). The updated vaccine rollout process in New York can be found [here](#), and mass vaccination sites and eligibility tool can be found [here](#).

~ **Federal** - In his first public address since taking office, President Biden announced Thursday evening directed states to make all adults eligible for the COVID-19 by no later than May 1. Full text [here](#).

**Federal Stimulus** - The latest federal COVID relief package was passed by the House of Representatives on Wednesday, and signed by President Biden yesterday (Thursday, March 11). The bill includes funding for rural health care providers (\$8.5 billion), stimulus support for individuals and families and, [according to Senator Schumer's office](#) approximately \$12.6 billion in unrestricted funding to New York along with more than \$10.8 billion in funding that will go directly to localities across the state. The text of the enrolled (final) version of HR 1319 (The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) can be found [here](#).

**Impeachment Investigation** - On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie [announced](#) that he has authorized the Assembly Judiciary Committee to begin an impeachment investigation to examine allegations of misconduct by Governor Cuomo. The Judiciary Committee, chaired by MoA Charles LaVine (Nassau County), will have the authority to interview witnesses, will have also have subpoena power. The investigation will run concurrently with the Attorney General's investigation.

## From NYS Governor Cuomo

### Quarantine for Domestic Travel Will No Longer Be Required Starting April 1st

Domestic travelers [will no longer be required to](#) quarantine after entering New York from another U.S. State or U.S. Territory starting April 1st. While no longer required, the NYS Department of Health still recommends quarantine after domestic travel as an added precaution.

### New York City and New Jersey Will Expanding Indoor Dining to 50 Percent

New York City and New Jersey [will expand indoor dining capacity](#) to 50 percent beginning March 19. Currently, New York City and New Jersey restaurants are operating at 35 percent capacity and the rest of New York State is operating at 50 percent capacity.

### Funding Awarded to Enhance Addiction Services

The Governor [announced](#) up to \$50.7 million will be awarded to providers throughout New York State to expand access to addiction services. Much of this funding is earmarked for regional networks designed to support a continuum of care that includes prevention, treatment, and recovery. Further funding will go towards enhancing COTI services, recovery centers, prevention coalitions, and the Triple P prevention program within these network areas.

### Executive Orders

There were no new Covid related Executive Orders this week.



## Legislative news

### 2021 Legislative Session Days

Next week's scheduled session days are Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> - Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup>. You can find the full 2021 Legislative Session calendar [here](#).

### Legislative Committees

The Senate will host 8 Committee Meetings ([live stream available on the Senate website](#)), with the Assembly expected to host its own slate of meetings as well ([found here once announced](#)).

### Legislative Activity

The legislature passed 80 bills this week focused on primarily on healthcare. The **Assembly** passed a package of nursing home bills including [A.5685A \(Gottfried\)](#) which relates to establishing a required resident care spending ratio for nursing homes; and [A.5841A \(Gottfried\)](#) which relates to the use of psychotropic medications in nursing homes and adult care facilities.

The **Senate** had a broader agenda, passing [S.1269 \(Brooks\)](#) which outlaws the possession of flamethrowers and [S.1441 \(Addabbo\)](#) which Allows off-track betting corporations to set up special reserve funds. The Senate and Assembly also passed a chapter amendment ([S.4001/A.3020](#)) that relates to minimum wage rates for covered airport workers.

### Public Hearings

- ~ April 7 - [Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture and Labor](#). Subject: Diversifying Agriculture and Addressing Food Justice Alongside Continuing Inequalities in our Food Systems.
- ~ April 7 - [Senate Standing Committees on Transportation and Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions](#). Subject: East Side Access/East Side Tunnel Project Oversight (MTA/Amtrak).
- ~ April 13 - [Senate Standing Committees on Environmental Conservation and Energy](#). Subject: Climate and Community Investment Act (CCIA).

## State Agencies

### ***From the Office of the Attorney General***

New York Attorney General Letitia James on Thursday released the following statement confirming that the independent investigation her office is overseeing into allegations of sexual harassment against Governor Andrew Cuomo will continue regardless of actions by the New York state legislature:

*"Today's action by the New York state legislature will have no bearing on our independent investigation into these allegations against Governor Cuomo. Our investigation will continue."*

Earlier this week, [Attorney General James announced the appointment](#) of former Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Joon H. Kim and employment discrimination attorney Anne L. Clark as the two attorneys leading the independent investigation into Governor Cuomo.

### ***From the NYS Department of Financial Services***

#### **CYBERSECURITY ALERT TO REGULATED ENTITIES CONCERNING MICROSOFT EXCHANGE EMAIL SERVERS**

The New York State Department of Financial Services ("DFS") today issued the following [industry letter](#) to all of its regulated entities following the recent discovery of cybersecurity vulnerabilities in Microsoft Exchange Server.

### ***From NYSERDA***

#### **\$13 Million in Award Winning Projects in Second Round of Buildings of Excellence Competition**

[\\$13 million has been awarded](#) to 14 projects through the second round of the Buildings of Excellence competition recognizing the design, construction and operation of low-carbon or carbon neutral multi-family buildings. With these winners, which include a diverse mix of large, small and community not-for-profit developers, the \$40 million competition has provided awards for the construction of over three dozen state-of-the-art new construction and gut-renovation projects through the competition, including over 4,200 units that will serve low- to moderate-income households