

# RM&S

Communication.  
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## RMS End of Week Update 2/28/2025



Governor Kathy Hochul delivers remarks at MTA Board Meeting. (Susan Watts/Office of Governor Kathy Hochul)

### **Congestion Pricing Update**

The Trump administration has instructed New York City to end congestion pricing by March 21. The Federal Highway Administration sent a letter to New York State DOT, New York City DOT and MTA, saying the MTA must stop collecting tolls by then to allow for an "orderly cessation."

Governor Hochul and MTA Chair Janno Lieber say the tolling program will not be shelved until "the courts" decide. "Obviously, I mean, we've been clear we're not turning them off," Lieber said. "We have an approval that is valid, in-effect and we're not turning them off, absent a court order."

**For more information please click [here](#).**

**Statement from Governor Kathy Hochul on Consent Award to End Work Stoppage at State Correctional Facilities**

“My top priority is the safety of all New Yorkers, and for the past 11 days, I have deployed every possible State resource to protect the well-being of correction officers, the incarcerated population and local communities across New York. Working with a mediator, we have reached a consent award to address many of the concerns raised by correction officers, put DOCCS back on the path to safe operations, respect the rights of incarcerated individuals and prevent future unsanctioned work stoppages. I have the utmost respect and gratitude for the correction officers, civilian DOCCS employees, National Guard personnel and other staff who have done their absolute best to maintain order in our correctional facilities during this challenging period.”

**Please click [here](#) see Mediator Martin Scheinmann’s statement outlining the terms agreed to by DOCCS and NYSCOPBA.**

**Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado Announced He Will Not Run As Lieutenant Governor With Governor Hochul in 2026**

This week Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado announced that he had made the decision to not run for reelection with the Governor in 2026 but that he remains committed to finishing his full term.

In response Governor Hochul’s Communications Director released the following statement,

“Today, Antonio Delgado finally said out loud what has been obvious for quite some time: he is simply not interested in doing the job of the Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York. Governor Hochul had already begun taking steps to identify a new running mate for 2026. We will also be reallocating responsibilities within the administration to ensure that important initiatives that had been within the Lieutenant Governor’s office are no longer neglected. Governor Hochul wishes him the best in his future endeavors.”

**To view the press release please click [here](#).**

**Senate Finance And Assembly Ways & Means Economic And Revenue Reports Released**

These reports offer a general overview of the status of the national and New York State economies. As well as specifying revenue projections for State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2024-25 and 2025-26.

**[Please click here to view the Senate Finance Economic And Revenue Report](#)**

**[Please click here to view the Assembly Ways & Means Economic And Revenue Report](#)**

**Joint Budget Hearings This Past Week**

This week Joint Budget Hearings continued to take place this week. The hearings that took place were: Higher Education on 2/25/25 (click [here](#) to watch the hearing and see testimony), Labor/ Workforce Development on 2/26/25 (click [here](#) to watch the hearing and see testimony), Economic Development/ Arts on 2/26/25 (click [here](#) to watch the hearing and see testimony), Housing on 2/27/25 (click [here](#) to watch the hearing and see testimony), and Taxes on 2/27/25 (click [here](#) to see the testimony).

**To view the hearings and listen to the testimony please click [here](#).**

**Governor Hochul Announces Proposals To Improve Workers' Access To Medical Treatment**

This week Governor Kathy Hochul announced growing support for a significant element of her [2025 State of the State proposals](#) to improve access to health care for injured workers. The four legislative proposals and one regulatory change are designed to give injured workers more options for timely, high-quality medical treatment.

“New Yorkers who are injured or become ill on the job need more options for care,” Governor Hochul said. “My proposals do just that, giving injured workers freedom to see the providers they want, including their own primary care providers whom they already know and trust. Injured workers will no longer need to travel long distances or seek treatment from an unfamiliar provider just because their medical issue is work-related.”

First among these proposals is universally authorizing all eligible licensed health care providers to treat workers' compensation claimants. Currently, only providers who are authorized by the NYS Workers' Compensation Board may treat injured workers. While there are thousands of eligible medical providers in New York State, only about 10 percent have taken the additional steps required to become Board-authorized. Now they wouldn't have to; authorization would be automatic as part of their licensing.

A second proposal allows resident and fellow physicians to treat injured workers, under a supervising provider, the same way they do for regular health insurance. This expansion could significantly increase provider participation at academic hospitals and health care systems.

While the first two proposals make it so more providers *can* treat injured workers, a third is aimed at making it more compelling to do so, and the remaining proposals are intended to reduce delays in getting injured workers prompt medical treatment. These include:

- A proposed increase to workers' compensation fee schedules (the amounts paid to health care providers for services in treating injured workers), to ensure that high quality providers in our system are paid at rates comparable to private health insurance.
- Legislation amending the Insurance Law to direct health care insurers to pay for medical treatment for workers' compensation claimants when and while a workers' compensation claim is disputed. Providers will be prohibited from collecting copays or coinsurance from the patient while the claim is under dispute.
- Legislation amending the workers' compensation law to permit workers' compensation insurers to pay for medical treatment, without accepting liability, for up to one year.

**The new workers' compensation proposals are detailed in [Governor Hochul's 2025 State of the State Book](#).**

**To view the full press release please click [here](#).**

### **Recipient Restriction Program (RRP) Restriction Edits Restored**

Effective February 24, 2025, restriction edits supporting the Recipient Restriction Program (RRP) have been restored. As a result, a restricted recipient will be required to obtain all of their care, directly or by referral, from their assigned providers.

- An assigned Primary Care Provider (PCP) is responsible for providing direct medical care or coordinating care through referral to another medical provider for specialty services. The assigned PCP is also responsible for ordering all non-emergency transportation, laboratory, DME, and pharmacy services for the assigned restricted recipient. A referral will be needed from the assigned PCP for any non-emergency medical services when a specialist is required. Claims submitted for a restricted recipient will be denied if information for the assigned PCP is not included on the claim as the referring provider.
- A pharmacy filling prescription for a restricted member is required to coordinate with the assigned PCP to safely manage the delivery of medications, including verifying referrals if prescriptions were not written by the assigned PCP. The pharmacy is responsible for using professional judgement in filling prescriptions without regard to restriction requirements if the prescriptions were written as part of an emergency department visit and the assigned PCP is unavailable (i.e., after hours) to verify the prescriptions. The pharmacy is responsible for contacting the assigned PCP the next business day regarding the prescriptions obtained by the recipient.
- An assigned primary inpatient hospital is responsible for providing all non-emergency inpatient services to the restricted recipient except for services provided pursuant to an authorized referral.

**Emergency Pharmacy Situations:**

In the event of an emergency, such as: drug shortages, unexpected pharmacy closures, and/or unexpected travel, see below:

During normal business hours, the recipient can obtain a temporary authorization to fill the prescription at an alternate pharmacy location by contacting:

- OMIG (Monday – Friday, (8a – 4p) 518-474-6866 or [omig.sm.rrp@omig.ny.gov](mailto:omig.sm.rrp@omig.ny.gov)
- The local department of social services (LDSS) - for upstate recipients [https://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/ldss.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ldss.htm)
- NYC Human Resources Association (HRA) - for NYC recipients 888-692-6116
- NY State of Health (NYSoH) - for coverage obtained through the NYSoH 518-457-0761 or [hxrestrict@health.ny.gov](mailto:hxrestrict@health.ny.gov)
- During nights and weekends the pharmacy can obtain a prior authorization by contacting: eMedNY call center (Monday – Friday 4p – 10p); Saturday and Sunday (8:30a – 5:30p) 800-343-9000

**Additional Information:**

The goal of the RRP is to coordinate medical services and improve quality of care for Medicaid recipients. Coordination of care reduces the potential over-utilization of health care services and prevents abusive or fraudulent behavior. A restriction is implemented if it is found that a recipient has received duplicative, excessive, contraindicated, or conflicting health care services, drugs, or supplies, or if a recipient commits fraudulent acts with their benefit card (i.e., forged prescriptions, card loaning, doctor shopping). The RRP may restrict the recipient to care provided by a PCP, Inpatient Hospital, and/or Primary Pharmacy.

Additional information regarding the Recipient Restriction Program can be found on the OMIG website at: <https://omig.ny.gov/information-resources/about-recipient-restriction-program-rrp>

**Governor Hochul Announces Three Agency Commissioner Nominees**

This week Governor Hochul announced the nomination of three New York State agency commissioners. The Governor nominated Denise Miranda as Commissioner of the State Division of Human Rights, Amanda Lefton as Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation; and Willow Baer as Commissioner of the State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities.

“As we work to make New York the best place to raise a family, it’s critical to have a team in place with the skills and experience to make that goal a reality,” Governor Hochul said. “These three nominees have proven themselves to be strong leaders with a record of achievement — and they will play a pivotal role leading these state agencies.”

Please click [here](#) to view the full press release.

### **Comptroller DiNapoli Report on Federal Relief Aid and Local Government Finances in New York State**

This week Comptroller DiNapoli released a report on Federal Relief Aid and Local Government Finances in NYS. The expiration of one-time federal pandemic aid, combined with state aid that has not kept pace with inflation and slower growth in local revenue may push some local governments closer to the edge of a fiscal cliff, according to a [report](#) released by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. The report provides an overview of these revenue sources and how they have affected local budgets in recent years.

“With pandemic aid coming to an end and uncertainty coming out of Washington, local governments need to shore up their fiscal foundations,” DiNapoli said. “By focusing on ensuring structural budget balance, using realistic revenue projections and multiyear planning, local governments will be better positioned to weather whatever financial challenges lay ahead. My office continues to support local governments by offering resources to help with financial planning and management.”

To view the full report please click [here](#).

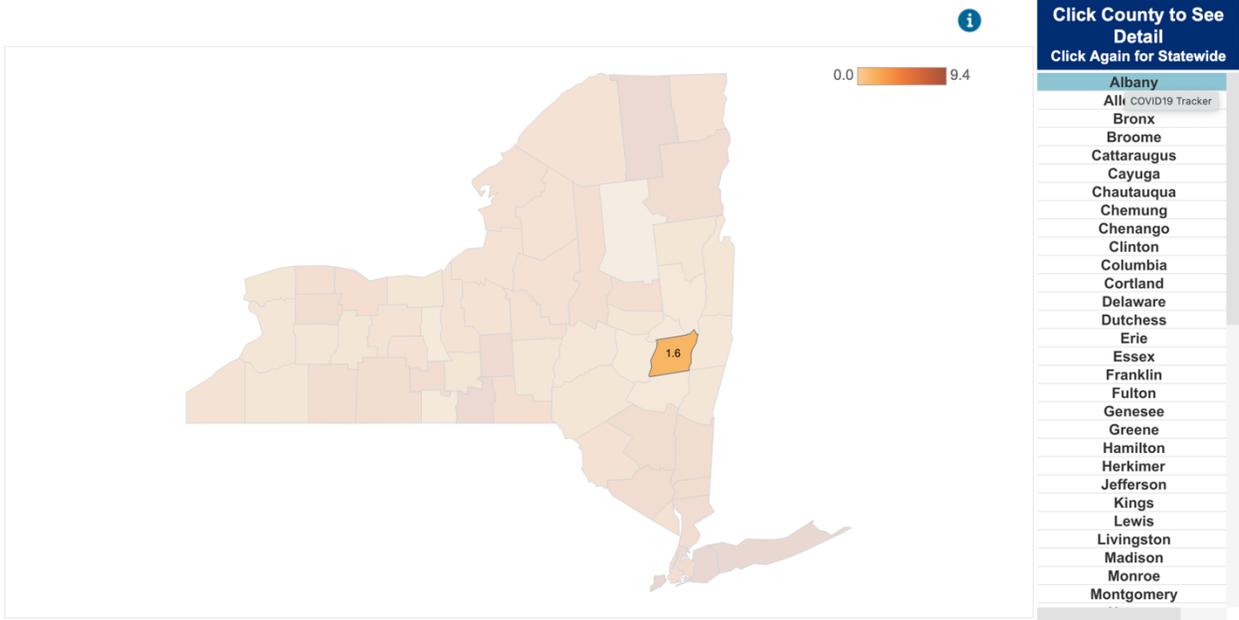
### **Comptroller DiNapoli Releases Review Of The Financial Plan Of The City Of New York**

The report released by the Comptroller this week shows New York City increased its expectations for its surplus in fiscal year (FY) 2025 to \$2.34 billion, largely as a result of stronger tax revenue projections and a reduction in the cost of providing services to asylum seekers, which will help balance its \$116.9 billion FY 2026 budget. With escalating uncertainty in the federal funding environment — which could lead the State to make choices to balance its budget that pressure local government finances — preparation and transparency remain paramount to navigate the future according to the report.

[Please click here to view the full report.](#)

### **NYS COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard**

Below we have included the link to the State’s Testing Tracker which includes the State’s overall testing status--by clicking on the link above you can view the testing results by county. This data is current through February 27, 2025.

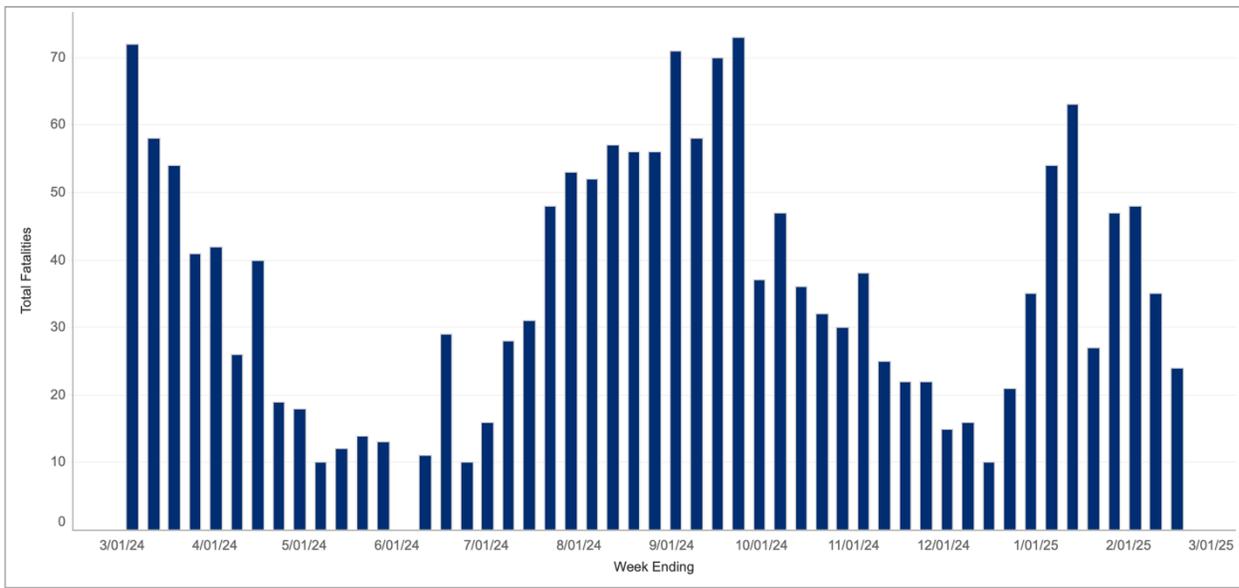


Use this link to view the State's updated [COVID-19 Hub](#).

**NYS COVID-19 Fatalities Tracker**

Below we have included the Fatalities Tracker with the webpage where updated numbers can be found throughout the week linked [here](#).

**Total Fatalities reported to and compiled by CDC : 84960**  
 This weekly COVID-19 provisional death certificate data reported by NYS DOH and NYC to the CDC includes those who died in any location, including hospitals, nursing homes, adult care facilities, at home, in hospice and other settings.



## **Helpful Links and Resources**

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Department of Financial Services information and resources](#)

[New York COVID-19 Vaccine Information Page](#)

### **Department of Health**

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

[COVID-19 Guidance for Medicaid Providers](#)

### **Office of Mental Health**

<https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/covid-19-resources.html>

### **OPWDD**

<https://opwdd.ny.gov/coronavirus-guidance>

### **State Education Department**

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/COVID-19.html>

### **NYS Department of Labor**

<https://dol.ny.gov/>