

# RM&S

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## **RMS End of Week Update 4/4/2025**



### **Budget Update**

Lawmakers passed a second budget extender yesterday to keep the government funded that will run until Monday, April 7, 2025. Governor Hochul told reporters Thursday that she's in it for the long haul. "I'm going to continue the process until it's done," she said she refused to delve into the specifics of closed-door negotiations, and she urged New Yorkers to be patient as the process unfolds, telling reporters that "summers are nice here, too."

"If I was hung up on the deadline, we would not have the budget that I believe in my heart is the best budget for the people of New York," she said.

Shortly after the Governor's press conference, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie held a press gaggle with LCA members.

Addressing the Governor's policy preferences for the Budget, Speaker Heastie said the proposal for a bell-to-bell ban on cell phones in schools is "just about done," but other

points of contention remain under discussion, particularly changes to the discovery law. "I believe if we have a resolution to discovery we could conclude by next week," Speaker Heastie told reporters, explaining he had "no lines in the sand," regarding the matter. The governor has taken heat from lawmakers for stalling progress on spending issues to advance her policy agenda. Deputy Senate Majority Leader Mike Gianaris said it's par for the course.

"We always think that governors, even before her, try to insert too much policy into the budget conversation, but it's something we have to deal with, so we're trying to clear it as quickly as we can," he said.

We will continue to keep you updated as the budget process continues with the legislature heading back home this weekend, we expect another budget extender Monday and negotiations to continue.

### **Budget Links:**

[\*\*RMS Tax/Revenue Table\*\*](#)

[\*\*SFY 2025-26 H/MH Budget Summary Comparison\*\*](#)

### **New York's Home Care Crisis: Licensed Agencies Urge Lawmakers to Take Immediate Action**

The New York State Association of Health Care Providers, Inc. (HCP) has issued an urgent [open letter](#) to Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, calling for immediate action to address the growing crisis in New York's home care system.

In the midst of significant upheaval in home- and community-based services in New York State and a rising demand for these services, Licensed Home Care Services Agencies (LHCSAs) have begun to receive Medicaid reimbursement cuts. These cuts affect the funding that supports wages and benefits for health care workers and ensures continuity of care for the elderly and disabled in New York State.

Agencies were already struggling to recruit and retain home care workers as operational costs soar beyond reimbursement rates. Recent changes in New York's home care delivery system have disrupted the entire network, creating a ripple effect that jeopardizes care for thousands of vulnerable residents. Without immediate intervention, thousands of vulnerable New Yorkers risk losing access to essential care.

HCP is calling on state lawmakers to take the following urgent steps in the state budget:

- **Allocate \$150 million** from the Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax to support home- and community-based care.
- **Repeal eligibility restrictions** based on increased Activities of Daily Living (ADL) requirements (S.358, Rivera/A.1198, Paulin).

- **Join the Senate in rejecting the cap** on the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Medicaid Waiver program.

“The number of people needing care has not changed, but the way care is delivered has been upended,” said Laura Ehrich, Vice President of Public Policy with the Association. “Without immediate legislative action, agencies will be unable to meet demand, and New Yorkers who rely on home care will be left without options.”

HCP’s letter (attached) warns that continued financial strain on LHCSAs will only exacerbate New York’s long-standing imbalance in long-term care policy, which has historically favored institutional settings over home- and community-based care. The consequences of inaction will be devastating for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers who rely on these services to maintain their dignity and independence.

### **OMIG Launches Enhanced Protocol Site on Agency Website**

To provide additional information and resources to assist the provider community, OMIG this week posted a new protocols page on its website. The enhanced site includes information about the protocol development process, details on service dates and a protocol development planner. The new site also features an archive section, which provides users access to previously posted protocols.

To view the new site, please visit: [Audit Protocols | Office of the Medicaid Inspector General](#)

### **Come Learn Hands Only CPR On April 8<sup>th</sup>**

Join Senator Baskin and Assemblymember Solages in a CPR Face-Off Tuesday April 8 9-3pm in the Legislative Office Building Room 104-A. Join the American Heart Association’s Nation of Lifesavers by Learning Hands Only CPR!

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

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](#).



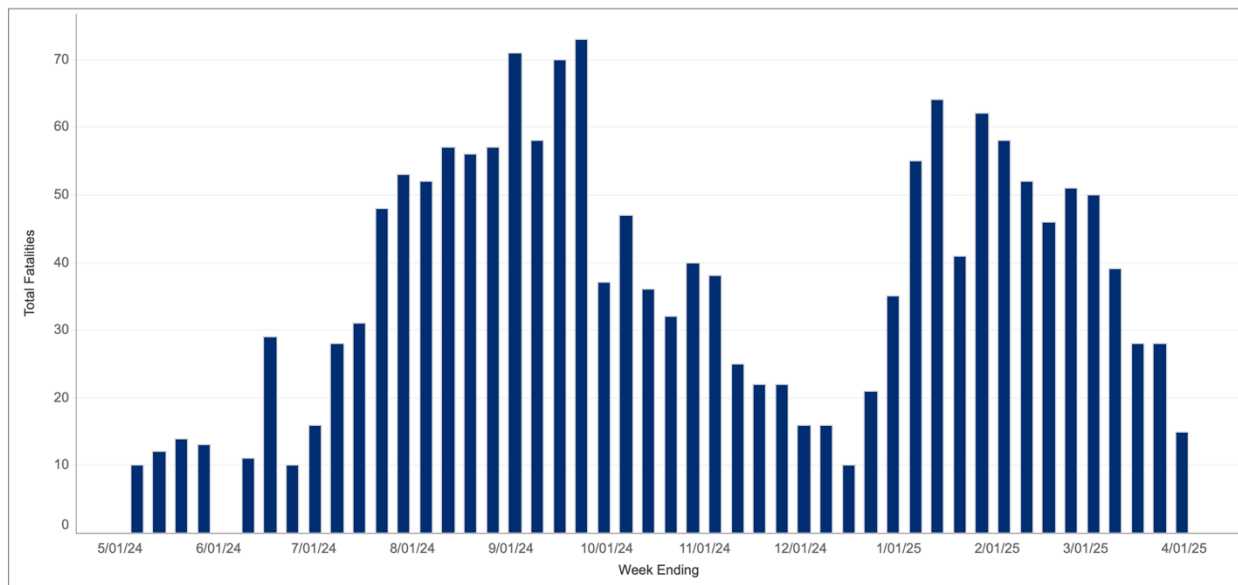
Department of  
Health

## Fatalities

Data Last Updated on: 4/3/2025

**Total Fatalities reported to and compiled by CDC : 85249**

*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**

[SFY 2025-26 H/MH Budget Summary Comparison](#)

[RMS Tax/ Revenue Table](#)

[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/>