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## RMS End of Week Update 7/25/2025



### **Governor Hochul Signs S5539-A (Baskin) /A785-A (Solages) Requiring Public Schools To Have Cardiac Emergency Response Plans**

Yesterday, at Buffalo Bills training camp Governor Hochul signed Desha's Law ([S5539-A/A785-A](#)). This legislation continues the work of The Louis Acompora AED's in Schools Act which required certain public school facilities to retain on premises at least one functional cardiac automated external defibrillator. Desha's Law requires schools safety plans to include a cardiac emergency response plan that addresses the use of appropriate personnel and measures to respond to incidents involving any individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergency on any school site owned or operated by a school or at a location of a school sponsored event.

"Today is an important day in New York as we take a major step to protect our kids and school communities in the moments that matter most," **Governor Hochul said.** "No family should have to experience the heartbreak of losing a child when a life could have been saved. Desha's Law will ensure our schools are prepared to respond in an

emergency, giving every student a better chance at a healthy, active life. It is also another testament to New York's commitment to getting kids off their phones and outside to play sports, have fun with their friends and experience life to the fullest."

**State Senator April N.M. Baskin said,** "With the implementation of Desha's Law, a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP), a detailed outline on what steps to take in a cardiac emergency, will be in place at every public school across the state. Thank you again Governor Hochul for signing this vital legislation into law today. May Desha's memory save the lives of future student athletes and continue to live in all of our hearts forever."

**Assemblymember Michaelle Solages said,** "Desha's Law is a vital bill that will enable our schools to proactively plan and safeguard our student-athletes. This bill is about preparation, not panic, and about empowering health officials and athletic staff to save lives. We have seen how instances of cardiac arrest impact families from all backgrounds—whether on the national level or right here in our local school districts. I am ecstatic that we have passed this bill and appreciate the partnership of Senator April Baskin, the American Heart Association, and Governor Kathy Hochul."

**Mother of Desha, Anika Florence-Hall said,** "Our grief is deep, but knowing Desha inspired this legislation means so much. My family and I are grateful for the passage of this law. Desha will help so many others who I hope will never face the same kind of tragedy."

**American Heart Association CEO Nancy Brown said,** "As our Nation of Lifesavers Ambassador Damar Hamlin and the entire Buffalo Bills organization knows, saving lives from sudden cardiac arrest depends on having a strong chain of survival across the emergency response system. Thank you to the elected officials in New York State and Governor Hochul for implementing evidence-based policies that will save lives among students and others who suffer sudden cardiac arrest at school. We are proud to be working with the NFL and the Smart Heart Sports Coalition across all states as we help bystanders become lifesavers."

**Buffalo Bills Safety Damar Hamlin said,** "To know that my experience is leading to real change — not just for people I know, but for lives I may never meet — means the world to me. This is bigger than football. We're putting the right systems in place to save lives, and that's a legacy I'm proud to be part of."

**National Football League Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs Kenneth Edmonds said,** "On behalf of the National Football League and the more than 40 organizations that make up the Smart Heart Sports Coalition, I applaud Governor Hochul for signing this common-sense, life-saving measure. With this bill crossing the goal line and into law, New York's school communities and scholastic athletic

venues will be better prepared with a plan and the practice to swing into action and respond effectively to a cardiac emergency if it occurs. This is a victory for student safety.”

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

### **The End of NYS COVID Paid Sick Leave**

More than five years after the law was passed, the NYS COVID Paid Sick Leave law – the last remaining COVID paid sick leave mandate in the nation – will sunset next **Thursday, July 31, 2025**.

New York employers will no longer be mandated to replace the income of individuals impacted by the COVID virus. Instead, employers can manage absences related to COVID as they would any other respiratory ailment. Employees will be limited to using either employer provided leave (sick, personal, vacation, etc.) or statutory leave (NYS short-term disability, worker’s compensation, etc.) to be compensated for absences.

The bottom line is flexibility. Employers can now manage COVID and other respiratory related employee absences in accordance with their own requirements and policies.

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

### **U.S. Rep Mike Lawler Announces That He Will Not Launch A Gubernatorial Campaign**

U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik is a step closer to running for governor in 2026 Wednesday after the other New York Republican who was interested in the office U.S. Rep. Mike Lawler has said he will not launch a gubernatorial campaign.

The decision could put Republicans in a better position to hold their majority in the U.S. House next year but, according to public polling, will make it more difficult for them to defeat Gov. Kathy Hochul according to a recent article by Dan Clark of the Times Union.

Democrats wasted no time in responding to Lawler's decision, framing it as evidence that he wasn't well-positioned to defeat Hochul next year. Jay Jacobs, chair of the state Democratic Party, said the result could be traced back to President Donald J. Trump. "Mike Lawler caving to Donald Trump before his campaign even starts proves he's too weak to take on Gov. Hochul - and he knows it," Jacobs said.

Governor Hochul echoed that argument in a post on one of her social media accounts Wednesday morning. "This is the same Mike Lawler who caved to Trump the minute he asked to rip away New Yorkers' health care," Hochul said. "Of course he doesn't have the spine to face me."

Lawler represents one of the most competitive congressional districts in the country. It drew millions in contributions to his campaign and that of former Rep. Mondaire Jones, who unsuccessfully challenged him in 2024.

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

### **What Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado Says Led To Him Challenging Hochul In 2026**

Recently, Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado did an interview with [Capitol Confidential](#) discussing his decision to run for Governor and challenge sitting Governor Hochul for their party's nomination in the upcoming election. In the lengthy interview with the Times Union's Capitol Confidential podcast this week, Lt. Governor Delgado said he is excited about the prospect of transforming the position of lieutenant governor, which has traditionally served as little more than a surrogate of the governor. Delgado says that Governor Hochul had promised Delgado that she wouldn't do the same to him when he was offered the job three years ago, he said.

"That was what made the case very compelling," Delgado said. "When you tell me you are trying to do things differently, you've lived through it personally and don't want to bring that same dynamic into the relationship, I'm going to take you at your word."

Delgado was in his second term in Congress when Hochul asked him to be her lieutenant governor. He had flipped the district from Republican to Democrat in 2018 and widened that margin of victory two years later. He was considered well-positioned for reelection but chose to accept Hochul's offer instead.

"There were a number of instances where there were some public splits on some things by virtue that we were not on the same page," Delgado said.

After months of speculation, he finally announced in June that he would challenge Hochul for their party's nomination in next year's election.

It's an uphill battle for Delgado, who's largely unknown to the statewide electorate. Even among Democrats, four times as many said they would choose Hochul over Delgado next year in [a recent poll from the Siena College Research Institute](#).

Other leaders in their party have largely stayed out of the political scuffle and, for now, Delgado and Hochul have stayed out of each other's orbit.

That's left Hochul without a statewide representative of her administration, though she's largely brushed off the ordeal in public. When asked by the Times Union if Delgado should step down to allow her to replace him, she took no position.

“It is his decision how long he stays,” Hochul said. “But we’re managing quite well.”

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

**Governor Hochul Announces Designations to Appellate Division Courts**

This week Governor Hochul announced six designations to the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, in the First and Second Departments.

“These designations to the Appellate Division are part of my continued commitment to building a judiciary that embodies the highest standards of legal excellence and reflects the rich diversity of New York,” Governor Hochul said. “Each of these jurists brings a wealth of experience and perspective that will strengthen our courts and help ensure that justice is served fairly and equitably across our state.”

As Justices of the Appellate Division, First Department:

**Honorable Troy Webber, Associate Justice-** was elected to the Civil Court, New York County, in 1993 and assigned to the county of her birth, Bronx County. In 2002, she was elected to the Supreme Court. In 2009, Justice Webber was appointed Acting Surrogate in New York County, where she served for almost 2 years and then returned to Supreme Court, Bronx County. In 2016, Justice Webber was appointed to the Appellate Division, First Department.

**Honorable Saliann Scarpulla, Associate Justice-** is a graduate of Boston University and Brooklyn Law School, cum laude. After law school, Justice Scarpulla clerked for the Hon. Alvin F. Klein in Supreme Court, New York County. When her clerkship concluded, Justice Scarpulla joined Proskauer Rose Goetz & Mendelsohn as a litigation associate. Justice Scarpulla later moved to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as Senior Counsel in the New York Legal Services Office. From the FDIC Justice Scarpulla became Senior Vice President and Bank Counsel to Hudson United Bank. In 2020, Justice Scarpulla was appointed to the Appellate Division, First Department.

**Honorable Shlomo Hagler, Additional Justice-** is the current Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term, First Department. He was appointed to the court in 2021. Justice Hagler began his judicial career in 1999, when he was appointed to New York City Housing Court. In 2003, he was elected to the New York City Civil Court, and in 2008, Justice Hagler was designated an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County. As an Acting Justice, he established and presided over an "Innovative Guardianship Part" that combined the authority of the Supreme Court under the Mental Hygiene Law with that of the Housing Court. This initiative aimed to protect and empower vulnerable individuals within the community. In 2012, he was elected to the Supreme Court.

**Honorable Margaret Anne Pui Yee Chan, Additional Justice-** elected in 2021 to the New York State Supreme Court, serves in the New York County Commercial Division resolving complex business disputes. Before her election, she was an Acting Justice from 2012, handling a wide range of cases from mass torts to constitutional litigation. Justice Chan attended Brooklyn College full time, where she majored in economics while also working full-time. She later attended Touro Law Center on a scholarship and was the managing editor of the Law Review. She then completed five years as a senior court attorney at the Appellate Division, Second Department.

As Justices of the Appellate Division, Second Department:

**Honorable Elena Goldberg Velazquez, Additional Justice-** was appointed to the Appellate Term, 9th and 10th Judicial Districts, in 2024, where she hears appeals from landlord-tenant court, small claims court, civil court and criminal court. Recently, Justice Goldberg Velazquez was elected as the President of the Latino Judges Association. In 2022, Justice Goldberg Velazquez was elected to the New York State Supreme Court, 9th Judicial District. Presently, she is assigned to Westchester County where she has presided over a variety of civil hearings and trials. Since her ascension to Supreme Court, she has also been published in the New York Law Journal.

**Honorable Susan Quirk, Additional Justice-** was elected to the Civil Court Bench in Brooklyn in 2016, where she served until 2018. She was then assigned to Brooklyn Family Court in 2018 to augment the bench in response to the enactment and implementation of the Raise the Age legislation, where she presided until 2022 when she was elected to the Supreme Court in Brooklyn where she currently presides over all types of criminal matters. Active in the legal community, Judge Quirk is a member of the Supreme Court Justices Association of the City of New York; the Puerto Rican Bar Association; the Brooklyn Bar Association; the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association; the Columbian Lawyers Association; the Catholic Lawyers Guild, Kings County Chapter; the Richmond County Bar Association; the Staten Island Women's Bar Association, where she previously served on the Administrative Board; and the New York City Civil Court Judges Association, where she previously served as the Vice President for Richmond County.

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

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

### **NYS COVID-19 Fatalities Tracker**

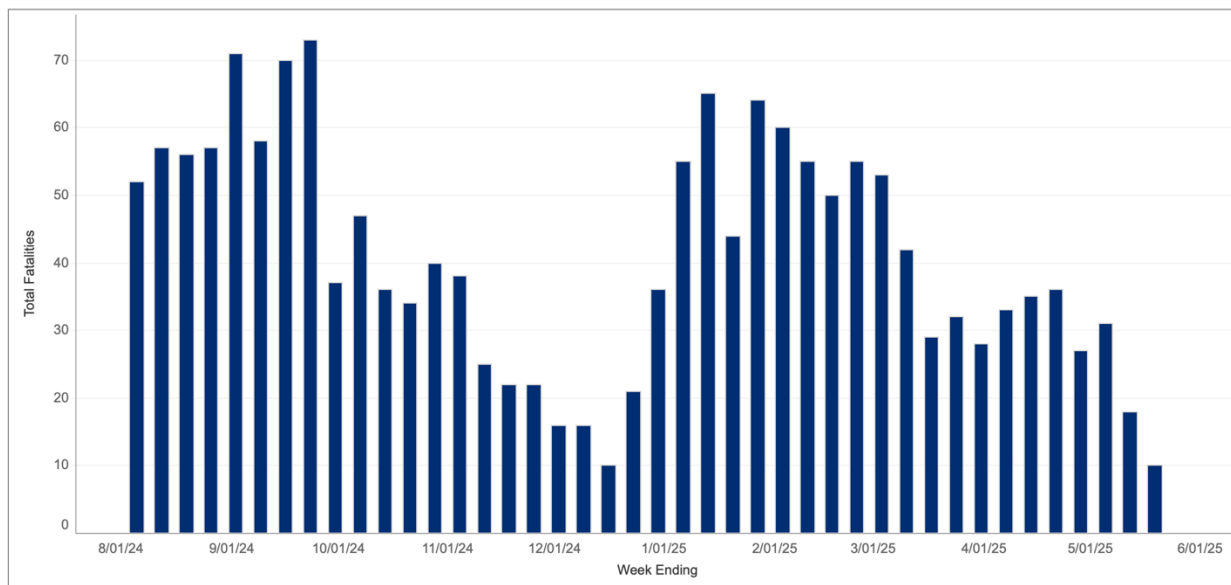
Below we have included the Fatalities Tracker with the webpage where updated numbers can be found throughout the week linked [here](#).





**Total Fatalities reported to and compiled by CDC : 85497**

*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**

**[RMS Final Budget Tax/Revenue Table](#)**

**[RMS SFY 2025-26 Final Budget H/MH Summary](#)**

[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/>