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RMS End of Week Update 8/22/2025



Joint Public Hearing: Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP)

Yesterday, the NYS Senate committees on Health and Investigations & Government Operations held a Joint Public Hearing on the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP). The goal of this hearing was to examine the program's transition to operate under a single statewide fiscal intermediary, Public Partnerships LLC (PPL), and the challenges experienced by enrollees, workers, and stakeholders.

The hearing began with testimony and questioning of Commissioner James McDonald of the state Department of Health followed by Patty Byrnes, a vice president of government relations for PPL. Unfortunately, the Commissioner and the PPL representatives answers regarding the issues surrounding the transition to PPL provided little clarity or real answers. Senator Skoufis and Senator Rivera expressed their frustration to the press following the Commissioner and the PPL representatives testimony. Senator Skoufis stated, "We hardly got any information, 80 percent of it was a complete waste of our time." And Senator Rivera said, "We gave them an extra month to prepare, and what they came up with was nothing, These are all basic questions".

The daylong hearing, which also included testimony from about two dozen stakeholders, underscored the high stakes and extreme frustration around CDPAP's transition from roughly 600 fiscal intermediaries to just one. Since PPL kicked off the transition in January, about 210,000 consumers and 236,000 caregivers have signed up for its payroll system. Along the way, they have experienced technical difficulties, missing or incorrect paychecks, data breaches and accessibility issues. The issues persist today, despite PPL's insistence that most have been resolved, consumers and their aides testified Thursday.

Some of those allegations continue to play out in ongoing lawsuits against the state and PPL.

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

Unlikely to See A Special Session To Address Federal Cuts To NY

With the federal government dealing New York a big financial hit, Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado and some activist groups are calling for a special session of the State Legislature to deal with the situation. However, Gov. Kathy Hochul, as well as leading State Senate and Assembly leaders, say current law gives her administration enough fiscal flexibility to deal with federal cuts in the current fiscal year.

Sen. Liz Krueger (D-Manhattan), chairwoman of the Senate Finance Committee, noted the state budget approved last spring specifically gave the Hochul administration authority to make up to \$2 billion in spending adjustments, by tapping into reserve funds, once a federal budget was approved. President Donald Trump's federal budget, cut disbursements to New York by a projected \$750 million in the current fiscal year.

Senator Krueger said, "Obviously, if the governor calls us back to Albany, we'll go back. But my gut tells me her budget people will be able to deal with the \$750 million adjustment this year... It's really the out years where we're in trouble."

Senator Krueger referred to projections that show federal cuts to New York would reach \$3 billion in 2026 and likely even higher in succeeding years. Many lawmakers, media reports and analysts have noted that the bulk of spending cuts in Trump's budget fall after the 2026 midterm elections, when control of Congress is up for grabs.

Some of the most impacted state programs include Medicaid, which provides health insurance for the poor and partially disabled, and the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, the program once known as food stamps, for the needy.

Governor Hochul recently told the press that "This is an ongoing situation. We were not expecting to deal with a \$750 million shortfall this year and additional \$3 billion next year... This year, I believe we'll be able to find a path forward to deal with the numbers. But next year's going to be tough."

The State Legislature isn't slated to return to Albany until January to begin its 2026 session. The chief order of business will be to craft a state budget by April 1, the beginning of New York's 2026-27 fiscal year. Unless something else big happens, most are expecting to stick to that schedule.

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

Governor Hochul Meets With Legislative Leaders On Redistricting

Following the news that lawmakers in the Texas House of Representatives passed a new congressional map at the urging of President Donald Trump, intended to boost Republicans in the 2026 midterm elections, Governor Hochul posted on social media: Game on.

According to press reports it appears the Governor is trying to figure out a game plan with legislative leaders, though there is little New York can do in the short term, given constitutional limitations, which would require an amendment to be passed by two consecutive legislatures before being sent to voters.

“Are we having those discussions? Yes,” Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie told reporters at an event in Schenectady Thursday morning.

Those discussions, sources say, included a virtual call Thursday in which Speaker Heastie, Governor Hochul, and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins strategized. At the earlier event, Speaker Heastie made clear that any plotting of New York’s own mid-decade redraw in time for the 2028 elections will also take aim at the fabric of the state’s Independent Redistricting Commission.

“You’re asking for a deadlock when you have things at 5-5,” he said of the panel’s makeup. “That needs to be changed, now, what those changes are, those are the things that myself and my conference and Andrea and her conference and the governor— even though governors are not involved in constitutional amendments, but we feel it’s important to have the governor’s voice as part of what we want to do.”

Governor Hochul said she is confident New York will rise to the occasion in getting the amendment passed.

“I believe it will be successful, then it goes to the voters, and the voters will ultimately decide this in the fall of ’27,” she said. “That creates the opportunity to do what I really want to do here, which is allow us to fight fire with fire and let us redraw those lines, and that will be in place for the 2028 congressionals.”

State Senate Finance Committee Chair Liz Krueger told *Spectrum News 1* she supports the effort, but she’s concerned about the amendment going to the voters in 2027 and getting enough Democrats to come out in an off year.

“It’s very hard to picture this whole thing getting done in time for the ’28 election because you would need, in a non-state election year 2027, for people to go to their poll sites,” she said.

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

Protocols Posted On NYS Office Of Medicaid Inspector General's (OMIG) Website

The New York State Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) posted the following audit protocols on its website:

Dental Protocol

Durable Medical Equipment Protocol

Independent Provider for Private Duty Nursing Protocol

Licensed Home Care Services Agency (LHCSA) for Private Duty Nursing Protocol

To view these protocols, please visit: <https://omig.ny.gov/audit/audit-protocols>

CMS Launches A Nationwide Oversight Initiative

This week according to their press release, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) launched an oversight initiative to ensure that enrollees in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) are U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or have a satisfactory immigration status. CMS will begin providing states with monthly enrollment reports identifying individuals whose citizenship or immigration status could not be confirmed through federal databases, including the Department of Homeland Security's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program.

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

NYS COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard

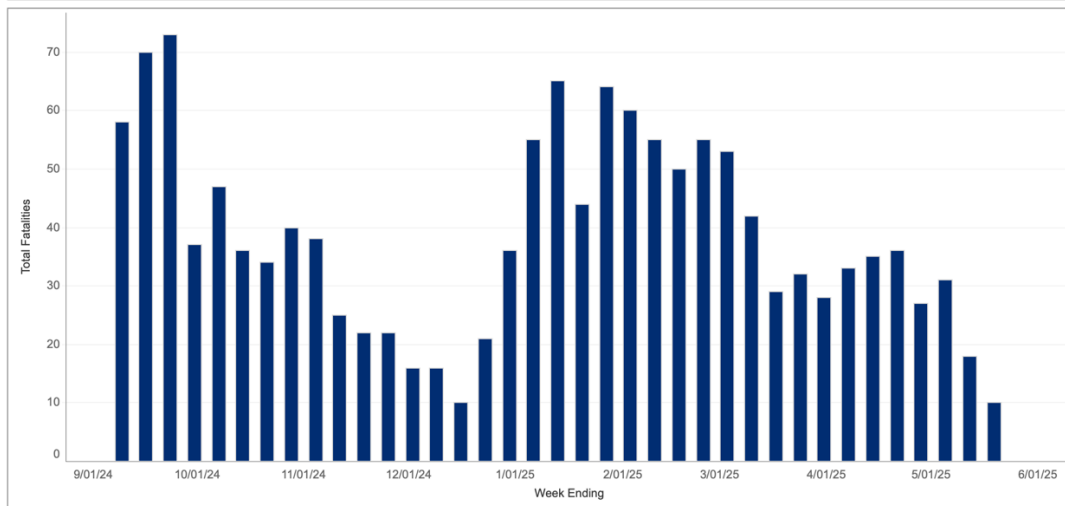
Use this link to view the State's updated [COVID-19 Hub](#).

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

[Eliminating Distractions In Schools Resource](#)

[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/>