

RMS End of Week Update 12/5/2025



Governor Hochul Signs Legislation Requiring Health Insurance Policies To Provide Coverage For Follow-Up Screening Or Diagnostic Services For Lung Cancer At No Cost To Patients

This week Governor Hochul signed S2000-A /A1195A into law. This legislation requires health insurance policies to provide coverage for follow-up screening or diagnostic services for lung cancer and prevents insurance policies from imposing cost-sharing for those services.

“Lung cancer is one of the deadliest cancers in the nation, and the last thing a patient should have to worry about is out-of-pocket costs for critical follow-up screenings,” **Governor Hochul said.** “Signing this legislation means that thousands of New Yorkers can focus on what is truly important: their health and well-being. With this law, New York is making clear that no one should face financial barriers to getting the care they need.”

Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer deaths statewide. Each year approximately 13,900 New Yorkers are diagnosed with lung cancer and about 7,400 die from this disease.

New York State Department of Financial Services Acting Superintendent Kaitlin Asrow said, “By removing out-of-pocket costs for lung cancer screenings, Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature have improved the chances that this form of cancer will be detected and treated as early as possible.”

New York State Department of Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said, “I want to thank Governor Hochul for her steadfast leadership and commitment to expanding access to affordable, life-saving medical services for New Yorkers. This legislation is a meaningful step forward in protecting the health of New Yorkers. Early detection saves lives, and removing financial barriers to follow-up lung cancer screenings ensures that more patients can get the critical care they need without delay.”

State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr., said, “Today, New York takes an important step toward saving lives and empowering residents to take control of their health. By Governor Hochul signing this bill, that I am thankful to have introduced in the Senate, we strengthen our commitment to early detection, one of the most effective tools we have against lung cancer, while also ensuring no one is forced to choose between their financial security and their well-being. In addition to prevention, accessible and affordable screening is equally critical to reducing mortality. I am grateful for the bipartisan support behind this bill and for the Governor’s action. Together, we move closer to a future where lung cancer is detected earlier, treated more effectively, and far less devastating for New York families.”

Assemblymember Crystal Peoples-Stokes said, “Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer deaths in New York State. Providing coverage for follow-ups or diagnostic services will save lives and I applaud the Assembly, the Senate, and Governor Hochul for getting this legislation passed and signed.”

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) Senior Government Relations Director Michael Davoli said, “By signing this bill, Governor Hochul has taken a historic step toward saving lives from lung cancer. For too long, cost barriers have kept high-risk New Yorkers from getting fully screened, and the consequences have been deadly. This law changes that reality. Governor Hochul and the Legislature have delivered a policy that will enable more New Yorkers to detect their cancer early, ensuring they have a fighting chance.”

American Lung Association Assistant Vice President: Nationwide Advocacy Michael Seilback said, “Lung cancer screening saves lives. The American Lung Association applauds Governor Hochul, Assemblymember Peoples-Stokes, and Senator Addabbo for their leadership in helping remove a financial barrier that could prevent someone facing lung cancer from accessing the life-saving care they need. By eliminating this obstacle, the bill will help ensure more people become lung cancer survivors and bring us closer to defeating this disease.”

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center Chief of Cancer Screening and Survivorship Mary Reid, BSN, MSPH, PhD said, “Governor Kathy Hochul has been an incredible advocate for the health and wellness of all New Yorkers and a champion for early detection of cancer to save the most lives. Lung cancer remains our biggest cancer killer, statewide and worldwide, but thanks to the thoughtful leadership of Governor Hochul and Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes, we can overcome barriers that have kept vulnerable

community members from accessing effective, safe, noninvasive, life-saving lung cancer screening."

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

Governor Hochul Announces Date For State of the State Address

Governor Hochul will deliver the 2026 State of the State Address on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., in the Hart Theater at The Egg, Empire State Plaza.

Webcast: www.governor.ny.gov

Governor Hochul Possible Shift In Stance On Taxes

Governor Kathy Hochul has spent months saying she wouldn't raise taxes. However, recent reports have led to a possible shift in that stance following Zohran Mamdani's win in the New York City mayor's race.

In the days since the election, Hochul has begun leaving the door open to raising corporate tax rates. Governor Hochul is running for reelection next year and any move toward higher taxes — especially for large corporations — risks unsettling business allies. Holding a firm line against levy hikes stands to provoke the left following its recent win in NYC. That shift has already drawn a swift response from Hochul's rivals. "New Yorkers deserve leadership guided by conviction and courage — not by whatever is politically easiest at the moment," said Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado, who's mounting a longshot primary challenge to Hochul.

The political tension is landing at a moment when voters are unusually sensitive to costs. New Yorkers across the state are still grappling with higher prices for groceries, rent and childcare — the same pocketbook pressure that helped fuel Mamdani's rise and that could reshuffle key suburban battlegrounds next fall. Her posture on taxes will help determine her standing within her own party — and the environment for every down-ballot Democrat heading into 2026.

The governor's advisers contend she has been able to effectively evolve without sacrificing core principles.

"Gov. Hochul bases every decision on what's best for New Yorkers," Hochul spokesperson Jen Goodman said. "She listens to families, responds to their concerns, and delivers pragmatic, results-driven solutions that make our state safer and more affordable."

Raising taxes on wealthy people and big companies is politically popular, a statewide Siena University poll last month found. Mamdani's election, fueled by populist angst over the cost of living in a highly expensive city, is forcing Hochul to again confront a rapidly fluctuating environment — testing her ability to smoothly evolve her positions in order to fit the political reality.

A maladroitness policy reversal creates the prospect of appearing untrustworthy to voters — a cardinal sin in an era in which authenticity is rewarded. And Hochul is holding fast against raising personal income taxes.

“I’m not raising income taxes because I believe that we want to make sure that New York is more affordable for everybody and I want people who are successful to keep creating the jobs and investing here,” she said in an interview with Fox 5 on Wednesday.

Everything else seems to be on the table, though. “We have to look at other revenue sources to fund,” she added. “Again, we’re dealing with a lot of hits from Washington.”

Defusing the looming tax fight will be a challenge for the governor, who will present her fifth state budget proposal next month, only six months before Democratic voters pick their gubernatorial nominee. A final spending plan is due by April.

There have been awkward moments as she attempts to thread the needle and minimize political fallout. Hochul’s appearance at a pre-election Mamdani rally was drowned out by tax-the-rich chants. Left-leaning activists, including the Working Families Party, have threatened to back Delgado — who supports higher taxes on rich New Yorkers — in the primary. Top legislative Democrats in Albany have also reiterated what has become perennial support for income tax hikes on the wealthy.

Talks among state officials are quietly underway over a corporate tax rate increase. The move is supported by Mamdani, who proposed matching the state rate with New Jersey. Yet doing so would actually boost taxes for large Big Apple companies even higher than in the Garden State, given the city-specific taxes they pay.

The incoming mayor and governor have emphasized a mutual support for universal childcare — an expensive measure that Hochul’s budget office estimates would likely cost more than \$10 billion once fully phased in. The program, though, is politically popular and would provide a tangible example of Democrats addressing the Empire State’s high cost of living. Taking a major step on the issue next year would give the new mayor a win and potentially keep his ardent political base from turning against the governor.

Hochul’s tax posture may be dependent on forces outside of her control, though. New York state’s cash picture is driven in large part by Wall Street’s success, and the financial market’s gangbusters year has yielded higher-than-expected revenue gains. Even with the padded wallet, the state’s economic situation is far from settled. President Donald Trump’s sweeping domestic policy package will sharply reduce federal funding for health care and food assistance programs to New York. Democrats are bracing for additional cuts next year, and a market downturn would create additional financial headaches.

“So, I can stand here today and say we can do quite a few things without any source of additional revenue based on the revenue coming in,” Hochul said during a November

news conference. “But I don’t know what Washington is going to do. Are they going to jam us up for another \$3 billion in Medicaid costs? This is the uncertainty that makes it challenging to do what we’re doing.”

Fellow Democrats are sympathetic — potentially offering political cover for the governor amid attacks from Delgado and Stefanik. State lawmakers acknowledge that the political and financial stakes are massive.

“We’re living in very nerve-wracking times from a planning perspective,” said state Senate Finance Chair Liz Krueger, an influential Manhattan Democrat. “Governments are just like businesses; we want to know what we’re walking into. We want to plan. We want to know what things are going to cost.”

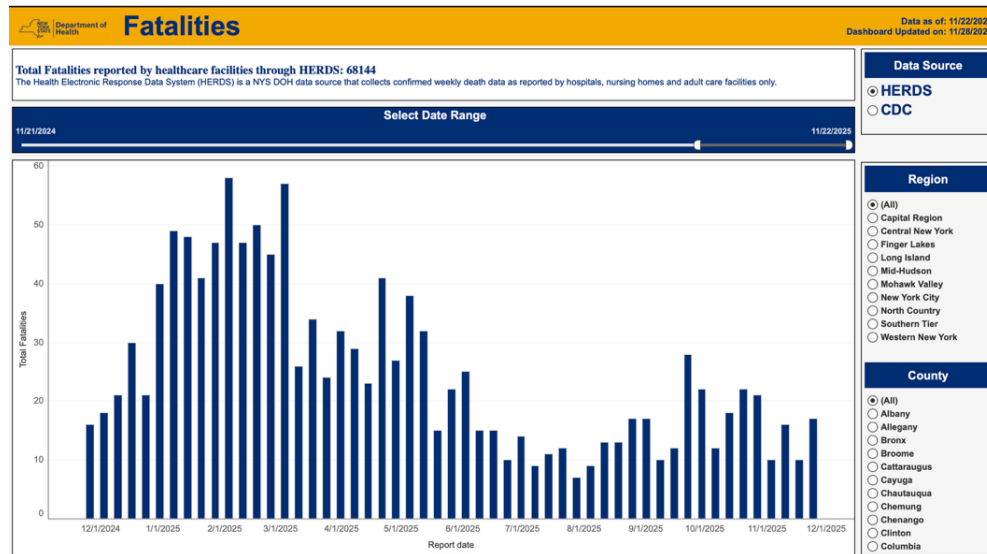
To view the full article please click [here](#).

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](#).



Helpful Links and Resources

[Empire State Development Tariff Resource Guide](#)

[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/>