

RMS End of Week Update 8/14/2026



Governor Hochul, Mayor Mamdani And Attorney General James Hold Press Conference Regarding Ice Overreach And To Reaffirm Protections For New Yorkers

This week Governor Hochul, Mayor Mamdani, Attorney General James, and NYS Senate and Assemblymembers stood together against the Trump Administration’s aggressive federal immigration enforcement and reminded New Yorkers of their rights and protections. In addition, Governor Hochul announced \$7.25 million in new funding to provide legal services for approximately 1,400 unaccompanied immigrant children and youth in New York who are facing active removal proceedings, including the more than 250 children who are currently detained. The funding will help vulnerable children access legal representation following the Trump administration’s July 31 contract expiration.

“No child in our state should ever face the fear and uncertainty of the immigration process without advocates and legal support in their corner,” Governor Hochul said. “While the Trump Administration is walking away from these children, New York is stepping up to help bridge the gap and ensure their continued access to the services they need and deserve. When we lose sight of our shared responsibility to protect children, we lose sight of who we are as a country, and as Governor, I will not let that happen.”

For nearly two decades, the federal government has been required by law to protect immigrant children and both Democrat and Republican administrations have complied with that law. Legal representation is necessary as unaccompanied minors are more likely to be trafficked, abused and endangered. The Trump Administration's lack of clarity surrounding replacement contracts creates instability for thousands of children in New York and across the country and ultimately will harm vulnerable children who rely on these services.

In response, the New York State Office for New Americans (ONA) is executing contracts totaling \$7.25 million with a coalition of legal services providers, led by the Hispanic Federation, to support children previously served under the federal program. This builds on the work Governor Hochul has already done to protect immigrant communities including nearly \$87 million for the Office for New Americans, a 27% increase compared with last year. ONA, through their network of community providers, operates a hotline, provides rapid legal assistance, conducts know-your-rights trainings and supports other key services for adults and children.

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

Earlier this year, Governor Hochul signed one of the most comprehensive laws in the nation to rein in ICE and prevent federal overreach by:

- Prohibiting local governments, state and local police, and state and local corrections from entering into 287(g) Agreements or similar agreements with the federal government that allow for state and local law enforcement personnel and facilities to be used for civil immigration enforcement purposes;
- Prohibiting state, local, and federal officers from wearing face covering while interacting with the public;
- Establishing a state law under which New Yorkers can bring a lawsuit against federal, state and local government officials for a violation of their constitutional rights;
- Safeguarding interactions with public employees;
- Keeping immigration authorities out of sensitive locations; and
- Ensuring immigrant students can access education, codifying the right to a free public education regardless of immigration status.

Governor Hochul and Attorney General James issued the following statement this morning regarding enforcement of the section of the law detailed above prohibiting local governments, state and local police, and state and local corrections from entering into 287(g) Agreements. The statement said:

“Local police should be focused on one thing: keeping their communities safe. Since we notified the 12 law enforcement agencies with 287(g) agreements, five have told us they

intend to comply with state law. The seven remaining agencies, including the Nassau County Sheriff's Office and Police Department, have 11 days to formally unwind their agreements with ICE. The safety of New Yorkers is our top priority. That's why New York passed these laws, why we will enforce them, and why we will continue standing up to federal overreach. Our job is to enforce the law, and that is exactly what we plan on doing."

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

Trump Administration Issues Executive Order Related To Childhood Vaccination

Earlier this week the Trump administration issued an [Executive Order](#) relating to vaccines. The E.O. introduces a new federal vaccine framework, recommending routine childhood vaccination for only 11 diseases, calls for vaccines to be administered during separate visits rather than giving several during the same appointment, and proposes splitting the MMR vaccine into three separate immunizations.

The Order directs HHS to reassess the timing and sequencing of core childhood vaccines and encourages states to reconsider their school vaccination requirements based on this new federal framework. In particular, the E.O. establishes the following three categories of immunization recommendations:

- **Immunizations still recommended for all children:** measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Hib, pneumococcal disease, HPV, and varicella
- **Immunization recommendations moved to certain high-risk groups/populations:** RSV, Hep A, Hep B, meningococcal B, meningococcal ACWY, and dengue
- **Immunizations based on shared clinical decision-making:** Hep A, Hep B, rotavirus, meningococcal disease, influenza, and COVID-19

Public health experts have expressed serious concerns, highlighting the MMR vaccine's proven safety and effectiveness. They note that separating it offers no demonstrated benefit and that separate formulations are currently unavailable. These changes will create additional barriers and increase the risk of missed vaccinations, while further eroding public trust and causing confusion, as federal recommendations diverge from established medical guidelines. This could ultimately contribute to worsening vaccination rates and increased outbreaks, particularly amid the ongoing measles surge.

New York State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald issued the following statement on the President's August 10 executive order related to childhood vaccination: "This Executive Order doesn't change New York State's immunization requirements or recommendations. To be clear: no new research was presented. Vaccines are the best protection for our children and under Governor Kathy Hochul, New York has the

strongest public health standards in the country. With measles cases on the rise across the country, now is not the time to confuse the public. The MMR vaccine has been protecting children for over 55 years. Splitting it into three visits offers no clinical advantage and requires children to have more shots and parents to have more office visits while providing no additional medical benefit. Here in New York, we will continue to be guided by the science.”

More information on the current New York State childhood and adolescent immunization recommendations can be found [here](#).

NY Joins Lawsuit To Block Feds From Getting Commercial Drivers' Info

New York and 20 other states are suing the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Department of Homeland Security to block the federal government from accessing the names, dates of birth and Social Security numbers of millions of commercial drivers as part of an effort to identify fraud in the issuance of the licenses, including to immigrants in the U.S. unlawfully.

The federal agencies announced last month they were launching the initiative to “crack down on fraudulent and illegal practices in commercial driver’s license (CDL) schools.” Officials said at the time that the Department of Transportation’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration had already identified about 75 entry-level driver training schools suspected of fraud, “including using improper driver certifications, falsifying training records, and failing to properly train drivers applying for CDLs.”

The lawsuit announced Thursday by New York Attorney General Letitia James' office said the multistate coalition of attorneys general are seeking a court order blocking the federal administration from obtaining the personal information of those issued commercial driver’s licenses. It also seeks to block the federal government from suspending funding for the program from any states that decline to turn over the information by Aug. 17. The lawsuit, which also includes the District of Columbia as a petitioner, was filed in U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Virginia.

The “coalition argue that the federal government has no legal authority to seize states' confidential driver records and is forcing states to choose between protecting drivers' privacy and preserving the system they rely on to issue CDLs,” the state attorney general’s announcement said. “The coalition is asking the court to immediately block the administration’s unlawful data demands and preserve the funding needed to keep the system operating.”

James C. Harris III, director of Homeland Security’s Center for Countering Human Trafficking, said in a recent announcement that “when fraud happens, it’s not just rules being broken. It means real risk for families, friends and neighbors who share the road every day.”

“We’re committed to protecting our communities by making sure that CDL training is honest and thorough and that only those who meet the highest standards are licensed to drive,” he added.

James, whose office has filed dozens of lawsuits challenging the policies and initiatives of President Donald J. Trump’s administration, accused the federal government of “attempting to seize confidential state records without any lawful justification...New Yorkers provide their personal information to the state with the expectation that it will be protected, not handed over to anyone who demands it,” she added.

The Commercial Driver’s License Information System has been in use for almost four decades and is used by states to determine whether applicants hold a commercial driver’s license in another state or have lost those privileges due to a dangerous driving infraction. The database is owned by the states and operated by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, according to the state attorney general’s office.

The federal agencies are seeking to access that database for records dating back five years. The lawsuit filed Thursday asserts that the federal motor carrier association threatened to terminate all federal grants and contracts with the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators unless it complies with the data request. The association said it received a subpoena from the Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday requesting access to the commercial driver’s license database.

New York officials said they use the system about 30,000 times a day and that disrupting their access to it would affect nearly 20,000 commercial learner’s permit holders and approximately 500,000 commercial driver’s license holders. There has also been a shortage of commercial drivers nationwide as scrutiny of the training programs that have allowed many of those truck drivers to obtain licenses have increased.

“Once New York’s records leave state control, the state would lose the ability to oversee how the information is used or protected,” the attorney general’s office said in its announcement. “The administration has asserted that it could share the data with other federal agencies, and New York has received no assurances that the information would remain confidential.”

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

NYC Pied-À-Terre Tax Can Continue Rollout During Court Appeal

An appellate judge ruled Thursday that New York City’s pied-à-terre tax can continue its planned rollout while it faces a legal challenge.

On Monday, Staten Island Judge Wayne Ozzi issued a temporary restraining order briefly halting the tax on second homes worth above \$5 million. The tax has become a hallmark policy of New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani.

Mayor Mamdani's government filed a motion to seek an appeal within hours of the Monday ruling triggering an automatic stay. Earlier Thursday, NYC asked the appeals court to confirm that auto-pause, arguing Ozzi's ruling "threatens to derail the City's time-sensitive implementation of a new surcharge."

The lawsuit was filed by three city residents challenging the legality of the rollout, not the tax policy itself. Their suit highlights the city's distribution of a list showing information on thousands of homeowners, and mailed notices informing 17,000 people on that list that they may be subject to the new tax.

President Trump, declared in a Truth Social post Tuesday that the surcharge on second homes "must be stopped, NOW!"

"I am looking to see if the Federal Government has any legal right to avert this disaster, before it is too late," Trump wrote.

It is unclear whether Trump or his immediate family would be subject to the NYC tax. Attorney General Todd Blanche on Wednesday declined to say if the Department of Justice was exploring its legal options against the tax.

The next hearing is scheduled for August 31.

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

NYS Department of Health Rural Health Transformation Program Overview

Following NYS Department of Health's issuance of applications and funding guidance for Rural Community Health Integration Funding proposals in early July, a webinar was held this week to provide more details, status updates, and plans/next steps for the Program. Please see below a summary of the webinar.

Background on the Rural Health Transformation Program:

- This [5-year project](#) is supported by CMS and includes the following Initiatives and Updates. NYS received \$212 million in funding for this, and the program will end in 2030
 - Rural Community Health Integration (Rural Safety Net Transformation Program) – approximately \$76 million allocated
 - Strengthening Rural Communities with Technology-Enhanced Primary Care (Patient-Centered Medical Home) – about \$30 million allocated

- Rural Roots: Building a Sustainable Rural Healthcare Workforce – around \$15 million allocated
- Investments in Technology Innovation & Cybersecurity Enhancements for Rural NY – approximately \$75-\$80 million allocated
- They don't anticipate creating a vendor list, but awardees will be made public and they recommend watching to see where groups may be able to get involved
- Details on the cooperative agreement with CMS:
 - Working closely with CMS on all aspects with weekly meetings
 - Will require annual non-competing continuing applications
 - First cycle spending is important for future cycles

Rural Community Health Integration Update:

- They received 91 applications with 141 individual projects and \$156 million total request. They are reviewing the applications now and hoping they are able to make funding announcements by the end of August; some proposed projects may be combined where they judge appropriate.
 - These projects must be completed by June 30, 2027, to ensure expenditure of funds by September 30, 2027
 - Budget Period 2 Funding Guidance for this is planned to be issued in November

Technology Enhanced Primary Care:

Overall goal to improve rural patient access to and utilization of high-quality primary care

- Expand the number of PCMH-recognized providers and accelerate their adoption of enabling technology to improve access, care coordination, and outcomes
- Grants to primary care practices for minor capital improvements and staff training on best care practices for patients with accessibility issues
- Grants to accelerate primary care practices utilization of advanced analytics to improve operational efficiency, quality, and financial sustainability
- They are currently working with the contractor on this and funds will be administered by a third-party. **Funding guidance is expected to be issued this fall**

Rural Roots: Building a Sustainable Rural Healthcare Workforce – They are currently:

- Finalizing a Scope of Work for early career exposure for students and enhanced clinical rotations work
- Developing a Scope of Work for workforce development activities
- Finalizing a Memo of Understanding for data analysis work

- **Funding guidance for EMS and Recruitment to Service is expected this fall** and funds will be administered by a contractor acting as a third-party administrator

Investments in Technology Innovation and Cybersecurity Resilience for Rural NY:

Overall goal to strengthen cybersecurity and invest in innovative technologies –

- Increase cybersecurity of rural facilities
- Expand access to care through telehealth
- Improve patient outcomes through eConsult partnerships
- Improve care coordination alerts between healthcare agencies in rural counties
- Strategic efforts to partner health care facilities and practices with the State Health Information-NY health information exchange and cybersecurity experts
- Support systems with a cloud-native, Artificial Intelligence-enabled, modular platform that generates actionable intelligence for rural health care providers
- They are finalizing the Scope of Work with a contractor to conduct the cybersecurity activities
- **Funding Guidance for other information technology activities will be issued this fall**

Next Steps and Miscellaneous:

- Final Contract execution across all initiatives is anticipated before October 30, 2026 (approximately 70 grant and vendor contracts)
- Annual Report #1 is due August 31, 2026, with the Year 1 Reporting Period having ended on July 31st
- Quarterly Report for August 1 – October 30, 2026, is due November 29, 2026
- Budget Period 2 planning: 2nd Round of Rural Community Health Integration funding and Evaluation, pending CMS review and approval
- 47 of 62 NYS counties have been classified as rural
- There will be funding to expand School-Based Health Centers which will be administered by one of the third-parties

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

State Senator Shelley Mayer On Her New Role: Chair Of The Democratic Senate Campaign Committee

Westchester-area state Senator Shelley Mayer was appointed last week to lead the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee, a post most recently held by former state Sen. Mike Gianaris.

She spoke with Capital Tonight host Susan Arbetter about what she hopes to achieve, including raising money and gaining a 42nd seat for Democrats, who are currently a single seat away from holding a supermajority.

A supermajority would provide the conference with the ability to override a gubernatorial veto, but there are other reasons to push for one more Democratic senator, Mayer told Capital Tonight.

“It’s a takeaway message, that we have enough votes to vote no,” she said. “And to the credit of our leader, there are times when people have to vote no on the things that rest of us vote yes for.”

Senate Republicans are using the rise of democratic socialism as a selling point to voters. They have argued that “the radical left” is bound to cause a problem for affordability. When Mayer was asked how she would counter that message, she pointed to Washington, D.C.

“Our focus should be on the real damage the Trump administration is doing to New York state. That’s our focus,” she said.

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

Helpful Links and Resources

[2026 RMS HMM End of Session Update](#)

[RMS Revenue and Tax Final Budget Table](#)

[RMS Health/Mental Hygiene Final Budget Table](#)

[FY 2027 Enacted Budget Financial Plan](#)

[Empire State Development Tariff Resource Guide](#)

[NYS COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard](#)

[NYS COVID-19 Fatalities Tracker](#)

[Eliminating Distractions In Schools Resource](#)

[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/>