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RMS End of Week Update 7/31/2026

Stuyvesant flooding - Stuyvesant Fire Company #1

Record Setting Rainfall Across The Capital Region

Communities across the Capital Region began cleaning up Thursday after record-setting rainfall flooded roads and homes, prompted water rescues and emergency declarations, and caused a 100-year-old mill to collapse. The daily rainfall total at Albany reached 5.45 inches Wednesday, making it the second-wettest day on record. The highest daily total remains 5.6 inches, recorded during Tropical Storm Floyd in 1999.

Fire departments, police agencies and emergency dispatchers reported unusually high call volumes as flooding spread across the region.

The NYS Department Of Health Announces Six-Month Medicaid Change Of Ownership (CHOW) Moratorium

The NYS Department of Health (DOH) has announced a temporary six-month moratorium on Medicaid enrollments and changes of ownership (CHOWs) for several categories of Medicaid providers, including Licensed Home Care Services Agencies (LHCSAs). The announcement was made by Medicaid Director Amir Bassiri during a United Hospital Fund seminar on July 30, 2026, and was subsequently reported by POLITICO Pro.

What the Moratorium Covers

The moratorium applies to Medicaid enrollment and ownership changes involving the following provider types:

- Licensed Home Care Services Agencies (LHCSAs)
- Adult Day Health Care programs
- Durable Medical Equipment (DME) suppliers
- Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) providers
- Clinical laboratories
- Pharmacies

According to DOH, these provider categories were selected because they align with federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) areas of heightened program integrity oversight and represent sectors with either high Medicaid expenditures or a large number of enrolled providers.

Impact on Pending and Future Transactions

The moratorium does **not** affect providers that are already enrolled in the Medicaid program. However, organizations with pending enrollment applications—including those pursuing a change of ownership that requires Medicaid enrollment approval—will have their applications placed on hold until the moratorium expires.

Medicaid Director Bassiri stated that applicants already in the approval pipeline "will be waiting until the end of the moratorium."

For providers contemplating acquisitions, mergers, or other ownership restructurings, the announcement effectively pauses Medicaid approval of many transactions involving affected provider types.

Why DOH Is Imposing the Moratorium

DOH indicated the moratorium is intended to provide time to:

- Transition from the current paper-based Medicaid enrollment process to a new electronic Provider Services Portal.

- Implement new federal Medicaid provider screening and revalidation requirements after the Trump Administration directed states to develop two-year provider revalidation plans.
- Modernize provider enrollment and oversight before processing additional applications.

Expected Duration
The Department anticipates the moratorium will remain in effect for **at least six months**. Bassiri indicated he does **not currently expect** the moratorium to be extended beyond that period.

Implications for Home Care Provider
The moratorium could have significant business implications:

- Delays in completing acquisitions and ownership transfers requiring Medicaid approval.
- Potential postponement of investment transactions and corporate restructurings.
- Extended closing timelines for buyers and sellers.
- Greater uncertainty for organizations with pending CHOW applications awaiting DOH action.

Providers already operating under an approved Medicaid enrollment are not impacted in their day-to-day operations, but organizations engaged in active transaction planning should expect Medicaid approval timelines to extend by at least six months.

Looking Ahead
DOH has characterized the moratorium as a temporary administrative measure rather than a permanent policy change. Once the Provider Services Portal is operational and the Department has implemented new federal enrollment and revalidation requirements, Medicaid enrollment processing—including CHOW-related approvals—is expected to resume.

For providers considering acquisitions or ownership changes, careful planning around transaction timing and regulatory approvals will be critical until the moratorium is lifted.

<u>NYS Department Of Health Holding A Public Hearing To Discuss The State's Section 1115(A) Demonstration Extension Request</u>
The New York State Department of Health will hold a public hearing today Friday, July 31, 2026, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. to discuss the state's Section 1115(a) demonstration extension request. This is an opportunity for members of the public to provide comments.

Meeting Details:

- **Date:** Friday, July 31, 2026
- **Time:** 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

- **Location*:** Empire State Plaza, Concourse, Meeting Room 2, Albany, N.Y. 12242

*This event is in-person. Registration opens at 12:30 p.m. Individuals who wish to speak should register upon arrival. To tune in virtually, watch the live webcast.

Providing Comments
Pre-registration is not required. To be added to the speaker list in advance, email 1115waivers@health.ny.gov. Comments will be heard in order of registration. To ensure all voices are heard, please limit comments to five minutes per presenter.

Questions and Additional Information:

- Questions should be directed to 1115waivers@health.ny.gov.
- For additional information regarding the extension request, refer to the Full Public Notice: Department of Health Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) Section 1115(a) Demonstration Extension Request.

NYS Department of Health Letter Issued Regarding Medical Aid in Dying Launch On August 5, 2026
The NYS Department of Health issued a Dear Administrator letter, linked **here**, about requirements related to Medical Aid in Dying under New York State Public Health Law (PHL) Article 28-F, effective August 5, 2026.

Medical Aid in Dying allows mentally capable adult residents of New York State with a terminal diagnosis, reasonably expected to cause death within six (6) months, to obtain medication to self-administer for the purpose of ending their life at the time of their choosing.

In anticipation of the go-live date for Medical Aid in Dying (MAID), the Department of Health has launched a new website with a robust Frequently Asked Questions document, required forms for physician reporting, mandatory end-of-life educational materials, and other assorted resources. The dedicated MAID website can be found here: https://health.ny.gov/health_care/medical_aid_in_dying/

After reviewing the detailed information on the MAID website, please direct questions tomaidinfo@health.ny.gov.

To view the letter please click here.

FY 2027 Financial Plan - First Quarterly Update
The Department of Budget released their first quarterly update on the FY27 financial plan this week. Given the limited time that has elapsed since the release of the FY 2027 Enacted Budget Financial Plan on June 10, 2026, the DOB is not revising its annual

projections of receipts and disbursements for results through the first quarter, which ended on June 30, 2026.

Accordingly, the projections and underlying assumptions in the FY 2027 Enacted Budget Financial Plan remain unchanged and will serve as the First Quarterly Update Financial Plan. DOB will review and update, as needed, its projections of annual receipts and disbursements following the close of the second quarter. At that time, DOB also expects to have more clarity on the status of tentative collective bargaining agreements with the Civil Service Employees Association and the Public Employees Federation.

Operating results for the first quarter through June 2026 were positive due to a combination of higher receipts and timing-related spending delays, in part due to the timing of final budget passage. Tax receipts were higher than projected in most major categories, including Pass-Through Entity Tax (PTET) collections that are set aside in a reserve to fund credits and refunds in subsequent years, and thereby Financial Plan neutral. Lower than projected spending was comprised of typical timing-related assistance and grants variances, particularly in Medicaid which is subject to significant fluctuations due to the timing of offsets, credits, and other reconciliations. Compared to the first quarter results in the prior fiscal year (FY 2026), expected growth in receipts was reported across all major tax categories, as well as miscellaneous receipts. State Operating Funds spending in the first quarter of FY 2027 was 7 percent higher than the prior year and consistent with planned increases in Medicaid, School Aid, and several other major program areas. In the General Fund, spending was lower than the prior year almost exclusively due to the one-time repayment of the Federal unemployment insurance (UI) loan initially executed in June 2025.

To view the full report please click here.

Recent Article Regarding The Sharp Rise In Uninsured Patients In Emergency Rooms Following Obamacare Cuts

According to a recent NY Times article more and more uninsured patients are showing up in hospital emergency rooms and clinics, having lost their coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

Executives running some of the biggest hospital systems, including large for-profit chains spanning many states, expressed concern over the unexpectedly sharp rise in uninsured patients and the costs associated with treating them.

And many executives said that the hospitals were also reporting more unpaid medical bills and providing more in the way of charity care. Some hospital systems also found that patients were forgoing or postponing lucrative elective surgeries like knee replacements in recent months.

The significant increase in uninsured patients, about 20 percent in some cases, was disclosed in earnings reports in the past week and interviews with nonprofit hospital groups. Major hospital officials expressed growing unease over lost revenues amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars across the country's vast health systems.

Since the beginning of the year, enrollment in Obamacare has dropped by about three million, or 13 percent, according to the latest government figures. Insurance companies expect even more people to drop their A.C.A. plans.

The Trump administration has described the falloff largely as a result of its crackdown on fraud. But many people covered by Obamacare said they were struggling to afford the monthly costs, according to a survey by KFF, the health research group.

The rise in unpaid bills underscores the difficult financial strains facing many families. "What that tells me is that there are patients who are completely unable to pay," said Laura Kaiser, the chief executive of SSM Health, a nonprofit Catholic hospital group, who is expected to become chairwoman of the American Hospital Association, an industry trade group, in 2028. "We're really crushing people who are desperately trying to pay their bills." The hospitals "are absorbing that, and we can't," she said.

To view the full article please click here.

Statement From Governor Kathy Hochul On President Trump's Executive Order Targeting Mail-In Voting

Earlier this week Governor Hochul issued the following statement:

"President Trump does not get to rewrite election law or suppress the right to vote with the stroke of a pen. That's why New York challenged this unlawful executive order from the very beginning. New York's elections are secure. Our laws are clear. And the Constitution does not give the President the authority to override the longstanding role of states in administering their own elections.

When Americans stop buying what you're selling, you don't get to rewrite the rules. If President Trump believes in his record, he should make his case to the American people instead of meddling in our elections and making it harder for eligible Americans to vote. I'll never stop fighting to protect New Yorkers' sacred right to vote and the integrity of our elections."

To view the full statement please click here.

Governor Hochul Appeals Denial of New York's Request for Disaster Relief Following Devastating February Blizzard

This week, Governor Hochul has formally appealed the denial of New York's request for a Major Disaster Declaration for the February 22-23, 2026, blizzard and severe winter storm by sending a [letter to President Trump] urging him to reverse his administration's decision. The Governor contends that FEMA's decision was unsupported, inconsistent with its own standards, and failed to account for the true scope of the damage. New York State and local governments identified more than $168 million in damages caused by the storm, which would be more than four times the threshold amount established by FEMA. Governor Hochul is appealing the decision, requesting that the President reconsider the denial and approve federal funding to support recovery and future disaster preparedness.

"Despite the February blizzard causing unprecedented damage across our state, far exceeding FEMA's own criteria for federal assistance, New York was denied the support our communities need to rebuild," Governor Hochul said. "I am calling on President Trump to reverse this decision and ensure local governments have the funding necessary to recover and better prepare for future disasters. We owe that to the New Yorkers who weathered this historic storm and to the first responders, utility crews and emergency management staff who worked tirelessly to keep our communities safe."

To view the full letter please click here.

Governor Hochul Releases The Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) 2025 Impact Report

Earlier today, Governor Hochul announced annual results from the New York Small Business Development Centers (New York SBDC). Last year, the New York SBDC served 27,414 businesses and entrepreneurs through one-on-one advisement and trainings, helped generate $218.8 million in new capital, supported the saving and retention of 31,282 jobs, and helped create 3,392 new jobs.

"Small Business Development Centers throughout New York State are helping New Yorkers turn good ideas into vibrant small businesses," Governor Hochul said. "From Long Island to Niagara Falls, and the North Country to the Southern Tier, these centers are empowering New York small businesses and entrepreneurs to step up, achieve upward mobility, and serve as job creators within their local communities. I will continue to use every tool at my disposal to help New York workers and job creators thrive and prosper."

The New York SBDC is administered by the State University of New York (SUNY) and hosted at 20 different institutions across New York State, helping to link learning institutions with an expansive statewide small business network. The SBDC provides comprehensive support across all industries — including technology, manufacturing, retail, agriculture, and artificial intelligence — guiding businesses through every stage of their lifecycle, from startup and expansion to succession planning. Throughout its over 40 years of service, Small Business Development Centers have served more than 550,000 entrepreneurs, helping generate nearly $9 billion in economic impact for New York State.

To view the full report please click here.
To view the full press release please click here.

Helpful Links and Resources
2026 RMS HMH 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/