



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 20, 2020

NOTICE

The “New York State on Pause” Executive Order

In an effort to further mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the Governor of New York, Andrew M. Cuomo, has issued a new directive that all non-essential businesses statewide must close in-office personnel functions effective 8PM on Sunday, March 22. Information concerning the Governor’s action is available at <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-issues-guidance-essential-services-under-new-york-state-pause-executive-order>.

How does this impact foreign missions and their members?

Foreign missions may continue to perform essential government operations in New York. However, all foreign missions are expected to adopt strategies aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19, such as maximizing opportunities for their members to work from home (“telework”), applying social distancing of at least six feet, and avoiding local travel unless required for purposes of protecting health, safety, and protection of property.

When not performing those functions, foreign mission personnel and their dependents are expected to fully comply with the requirements of Governor Cuomo’s order, as well as any other applicable orders issued by local or municipal authorities.

Questions or Issues

Inquiries concerning the impacts of COVID-19 and the associated responsive effort on the operation of foreign missions in the United States should be transmitted by electronic mail to OFM-EmergencyMgt@state.gov.

Resources

- Coronavirus in New York: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>
- CDC's Coronavirus Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- CDC's Interim Guidance for Business and Employers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- Compilation of circular diplomatic notes and notices released by OFM concerning COVID-19: <https://www.state.gov/circular-notes-and-notices-covid-19/>
- Follow OFM on social media: Facebook.com@ofmdc and Twitter @OFM_Ambassador