



**GOVERNOR**  
KATHY HOCHUL

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## Governor Hochul Announces New COVID-19 Preparedness Initiatives to Protect Public Health and Support Ongoing Pandemic Response

**CORONAVIRUS** (/KI HEALTH )RQMKI **PUBLIC SAFETY** (/KEYWORDS/PUBLIC-  
SAFETY)

### New York State Crafting "Fall Action Plan" For Back-To-School and Seasonal Pandemic Surges

### RFP Released for Independent After-Action Review of State Response to The COVID-19 Pandemic

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced new COVID-19 preparedness initiatives to protect public health and support New York State's ongoing response to the pandemic. Governor Hochul announced the State is working closely with public health experts to craft a Fall Action Plan to address the potential for seasonal COVID-19 surges later this year, as well as strategies to allow students to return safely to school this fall. Governor Hochul also announced a Request for Proposals has been released for an independent After-Action Review to assess the State's COVID-19 response, identify what worked and what did not, and serve as a guide for all local governments planning emergency response efforts.

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/ZsDz4Rf\\_dG0](https://www.youtube.com/embed/ZsDz4Rf_dG0)

## PHOTOS

## Background on Fall Action Planning

Fall planning will focus on addressing the below, but not limited to:

- New Yorkers who may not have immediate access to healthcare professionals, as well as

an ongoing commitment to support New Yorkers struggling with the effects of Long COVID

- Readying stockpile of personal protective equipment (PPE), including 20 million tests ready to deploy where needed.
- Strengthening our hospital systems, including preparations to ramp up the State's Surge Operations Center in the event they are needed
- Coordinating with federal and local partners.

Governor Hochul's presentation on the Fall Action Plan is available [here](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/Gov_Fall_Planning_Slides.pdf) ([https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/Gov\\_Fall\\_Planning\\_Slides.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/Gov_Fall_Planning_Slides.pdf)).

### **Background on Pandemic After-Action Review**

Governor Hochul also announced a request for proposals to develop a pandemic After-Action Review, as part of New York State's ongoing pandemic preparedness efforts. The purpose of the After-Action Review is to review the State's COVID-19 response, identify what worked and what did not, and examine how the State could have improved its response. The Review will also serve as a guide for New York State and for other governments to use in order to respond quickly and effectively to significant emergencies, whether they are pandemics, natural disasters or other emergency conditions that create major disruptions to normal life.



***My team is working around the clock to bolster our preparedness against future pandemic surges and other related public health emergencies both in the short-term and the long-term.***

**Governor Kathy Hochul**

The Review will accomplish the following objectives:

- Review the State's COVID-19 response.
- Identify strengths, best practices, as well areas where policies were deficient in meeting the public's needs and identify key lessons to improve public health preparedness and response.
- Report the key findings in a structured and timely manner and provide clarification as needed.
- Provide key recommendations and prioritize or categorize those recommendations.

- Prepare a planning guide for the State for use in a future emergency, including identification of the first steps the State should take when an emergency overwhelms existing plans on the level of Covid-19 occurs and recommendations on how to approach and guide executive decision making.
- Recommendations should be specific, feasible, time bound, measurable, and adequately translated into an action plan(s).

The Review will focus on the following major areas of the State's COVID response, including but not limited to:

- Review policies and guidance on the management of hospitals and in-patient facilities in light of the pandemic's demands, including which medical procedures could and should continue.
- Review policies and guidance for the transfer of individuals, particularly the most vulnerable individuals, into congregate settings, including homeless shelters, group homes, nursing homes, jails and prisons, and which entities are most qualified to make those decisions and the efficacy of infection controls within those entities.
- Review policies and guidance for the shutdown and reopening of educational institutions, and how early childhood, school age, special education and post-secondary educational programs were handled during COVID-19 and how they should be handled in a future emergency.
- Factors for determining which businesses, industries, and functions should be considered essential and for what purposes.
- The securing and procurement of essential goods and services to meet New Yorkers' needs.
- The protection needed for essential workers in the workplace, and programs and services needed by these workers, who are often from low-income communities of color.
- Coordination among and between the State and its federal and local counterparts, including relationships with mayors, county leaders and other elected officials.
- Effective education and communication with the public, including the sharing of data and other information.
- Staffing and expertise needed to plan and implement emergency procedures and specific functions that must be fulfilled.

Under the one-year contract term, the consultant is requested to plan and provide initial finding on priority areas within six months of the contract start date. More detailed analysis and additional areas will be incorporated over following six months culminating in a final After-Action Report within one year.

The aim of the Review is to better inform New York State's pandemic response and is not intended to conflict with other outside ongoing reviews. The Governor has appointed Jackie Bray, Commissioner for the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, to oversee the After-Action Review process.

A copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) is available [here](https://www.budget.ny.gov/contract/aars/aars-index.html) (<https://www.budget.ny.gov/contract/aars/aars-index.html>).

## Contact the Governor's Press Office






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