



**For Immediate Release**

**#22-19**

**NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ISSUES HAZARDOUS TRAVEL ADVISORY  
THROUGH MONDAY**

*Winter Storm Warning in effect for New York City through Monday morning*

*NYC Public Schools Closed Monday, March 4*

*Alternate Side Parking regulations suspended Monday, March 4 and Tuesday, March 5*

**March 3, 2019** — The New York City Emergency Management Department today issued a hazardous travel advisory through Monday, March 4. The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Winter Storm Warning for New York City in effect through 7 a.m. Monday, March 4. According to the latest NWS forecast, a wintry mix of rain and snow will change over to snow Sunday evening. Snow will become steady throughout the evening into the overnight. The heaviest snowfall may occur between 9 p.m. Sunday and 4 a.m. Monday, with the potential for an inch or more of accumulation an hour during that period. Snow is expected to taper off early Monday morning, though a lingering shower is possible. A total of 6 to 8 inches of snow accumulation is possible, with higher totals possible in northern parts of the city.

A Winter Storm Warning means severe winter weather conditions will make travel very hazardous or impossible. New Yorkers should prepare for snow covered roads and limited visibility. Commuters are advised to avoid travel through Monday, as roads will be dangerous.

Due to the winter storm, all NYC public schools are closed on Monday, March 4. Student after-school activities and PSAL games are also canceled.

Alternate Side Parking regulations are suspended Monday, March 4, and Tuesday, March 5 to facilitate snow removal. Payment at parking meters will remain in effect throughout the city.

“A fast-moving system will impact the city through Monday morning. There is the potential for heavy periods of snow, which can drastically reduce visibility. We are advising all New Yorkers to avoid all unnecessary travel and stay off the roads. If you must travel, use mass transit,” said **NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito**.

NYC Emergency Management will continue to work closely with NWS and key city agency to monitor and coordinate preparations for the weekend’s storm. The City’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) opened Sunday afternoon. Key agencies and partners staff the EOC to coordinate any response to potential impacts associated with the forecast.

The New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) has loaded 695 salt spreaders across the five boroughs, and its fleet of plows will begin operations if more than two inches of snow accumulates on roadways.



The City's Department of Transportation (DOT) has pre-deployed crews to the East River bridges and has pre-salted walkways at the ferry terminal, pedestrian overpasses, muni lots and step streets, and will continue to monitor these locations. DOT will monitor conditions on the citywide Transportation network at the Joint Transportation Management Center with State DOT and NYPD, and coordinate efforts to address any issues. For more information about all agency preparations, visit [NYC.gov/severeweather-agencyupdates](https://www.nyc.gov/severeweather-agencyupdates).

### **Safety Tips**

- New Yorkers are advised to avoid unnecessary travel. If you must travel, use mass transit where possible.
- Small accumulations of ice can be extremely dangerous to motorists and pedestrians. Bridges and overpasses are particularly dangerous because they freeze before other surfaces.
- If you drive, use extra caution. Vehicles take longer to stop on snow and ice than on dry pavement.
- Four-wheel drive vehicles may make it easier to drive on snow-covered roads, but they stop less quickly than other vehicles.
- Use major streets or highways for travel whenever possible.
- Know your vehicle's braking system. Vehicles with anti-lock brakes require a different braking technique than vehicles without anti-lock brakes in snowy conditions.
- If you are driving and begin to skid, ease your foot off the gas and steer in the direction you want the front of the car to go. Straighten the wheel when the car moves in the desired direction. If you have an anti-lock braking system (ABS), apply steady pressure to the brake pedal. Never pump the brakes on an ABS equipped vehicle.
- Try to keep your vehicle's gas tank as full as possible.
- Pedestrians should exercise caution and avoid slippery surfaces; some ice may not be visible. Wear sturdy boots that provide traction to reduce slipping. Use handrails when using stairs.
- Seniors should take extra care outdoors to avoid slips and falls.
- Have heightened awareness of cars, particularly when approaching or crossing intersections.
- Be careful when shoveling snow. Follow your doctor's advice if you have heart disease or high blood pressure. Cold weather puts an extra strain on the heart.
- If you go outdoors, wear dry, warm clothing and cover exposed skin. Keep fingertips, earlobes, and noses covered. Wear a hat, hood, scarf, and gloves.
- Shivering is an important first sign that the body is losing heat. Shivering is a signal to return indoors.
- Be safe at work. Workers who spend a lot of time outdoors are at risk for cold-related health impacts. If you are an employer, implement safe work practices, provide appropriate protective equipment, and train workers on how to stay safe during cold and winter weather.
- Limit alcohol intake. Drinking alcohol may make you feel warmer but it causes your body to lose heat faster. Alcohol also impairs your judgment, which limits your ability to



take appropriate precautions or remove yourself from a dangerously cold environment in time. As a result, alcohol actually increases your chances of hypothermia and frostbite.

**Power Outages**

- To prepare for a possible power outage, charge cell phone batteries, gather supplies, and turn your refrigerator and freezer to a colder setting. If you lose power, items that need refrigeration will stay cooler for longer.
- If your power goes out, disconnect or turn off appliances that would otherwise turn on automatically when service is restored. If several appliances start up at once, the electric circuits may overload.
- Make sure your flashlights and any battery-operated radios or televisions are working. Keep extra batteries.
- If you lose power & have a disability, access and functional needs or use Life Sustaining Equipment (LSE) & need immediate assistance, dial 911.
- Do not use generators indoors.
- Heavy accumulations of ice can bring down trees and topple utility poles. Ice can disrupt communications and power.

For more safety tips, visit [NYC.gov/EmergencyManagement](http://NYC.gov/EmergencyManagement). New Yorkers are also encouraged to download the Notify NYC mobile application, which is available for free download from iTunes or Google Play. Notify NYC is the City’s free emergency notification system. Through Notify NYC, New Yorkers can also receive phone calls, text messages, and/or email alerts about weather conditions and other emergencies. To learn more about the Notify NYC program or to sign up, visit [NYC.gov/NotifyNYC](http://NYC.gov/NotifyNYC) or call 311. You can also follow @NotifyNYC on Twitter.

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