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MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO URGES NEW YORKERS TO STAY OFF ROADS AS STORM WORSENS SATURDAY

Alternate Side Parking Suspended Through Monday, January 25, to Facilitate Snow Removal

NEW YORK—Mayor de Blasio today updated New Yorkers on the current winter storm, warning people to refrain from traveling as the storm’s intensity worsens this afternoon into Saturday evening. The Mayor issued a Winter Weather Emergency Declaration that will remain in effect through midnight Saturday urging residents to avoid all driving except in emergencies.

“Heavy snow and wind gusts are making travel dangerous today. All New Yorkers should stay off the roads so that our equipment can do its work and keep streets passable for emergency vehicles,” said **Mayor de Blasio**.

The latest forecasts anticipate approximately 20 to 25 inches of snow and near-blizzard conditions across New York City through early Saturday evening before tapering off overnight. Around 5 to 7 inches of snow has already fallen in NYC.

Latest Forecast

A blizzard warning remains in effect from 4 AM today, January 23, through 7 AM Sunday, January 24. Total snow accumulations between 20 and 25 inches are anticipated, with the heaviest snowfall occurring Saturday afternoon into early evening Saturday. Heavy winds, with gusts up to 50 miles per hour will severely reduce visibility.

A Coastal Flood Warning has been issued for parts of Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and the Bronx during the Saturday morning and evening tide cycles.

Travel

Motorists are advised to stay off the roads during the storm; white-out conditions are expected. Any vehicle blocking the roadways will be subject to towing. MTA bus service will be suspended beginning at noon today. If you must travel, use mass transportation whenever possible. New Yorkers are also urged to exercise caution and minimize walking outdoors during the worst of the storm to avoid slippery surfaces.

Schools

The Department of Education cancelled all DOE events for Saturday and Sunday. Updates will be communicated directly to schools and families and guidance has been posted on the DOE website.

Snow Removal

The Department of Sanitation has two 12-hour shifts of 2,300 workers each on duty, with 1,650 plows and another 579 salt spreaders on the roadways. City agencies including DEP, DOT and Parks have dedicated a further 135 plows for snow clearing operations. Plowing progress can be followed via the PlowNYC at nyc.gov/plownyc.

Parking and Trash Collection

Alternate side parking is suspended through Monday, January 25 to facilitate snow removal. Garbage/recycling/organics collections are suspended Saturday, January 23.

Emergency Response

911 should only be used in case of emergencies. All other snow related inquiries and reports should be made to 311. FDNY has over 430 ambulances on the street during the storm. More than 500 additional personnel are supporting operations during the storm. Homeowners should shovel a path to hydrants to make sure they are visible for FDNY to find in the event of an emergency.

Parks

New Yorkers are urged to stay out of City parks on Saturday to avoid the dangers of high winds and blowing snow. Rockaway beach will be closed this weekend- no surfing or other activities on the beach will be permitted. The boardwalk will remain open.

Ferry Service

The Staten Island Ferry and the East River Ferry are operating, but due to weather and visibility conditions, passengers should anticipate delays. Seastreak Ferry has suspended service.

Heat and Hot Water

Any tenant lacking heat and hot water should immediately call 311. The Department of Housing Preservation and Development has crews responding.

Homeless Services

Code Blue protocols are in effect. No one seeking shelter in New York City will be denied. Anyone who sees a homeless individual or family out in the cold should call 311 immediately and an outreach team will be dispatched to assist them.

Further Notifications

For information and updates related to weather and travel conditions, visit sign up for Notify NYC, the City's free emergency notification system. Through Notify NYC, New Yorkers can receive phone calls, text messages and/or emails alerts about traffic and transit disruptions and other emergencies. To sign up for Notify NYC, call 311, visit NYC.gov/notifynyc, or follow @NotifyNYC on Twitter.

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