Tips on Shopping Safely during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

COVID-19 is on the rise in New York City. Being around people outside the home increases the risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. When shopping, remember these tips to protect yourself, your fellow shoppers and the store staff who serve you.

Always practice these four key actions to prevent COVID-19 transmission:

- **Stay home:** Stay home if you are not feeling well, tested positive for COVID-19, have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 or have recently traveled.
- **Stay apart:** Keep at least 6 feet from store staff and other shoppers who are not members of your household. Shop online or order items for curbside pickup if possible. Shop during off-peak hours, do not enter a store if it is crowded and reduce your time in the store by making a list before you go.
- **Wear a face covering:** Face coverings reduce the spread of COVID-19. New York State requires face coverings on all public transportation and for entry into retail stores for everyone over the age of 2 who can medically tolerate them. See FAQ about Face Coverings for more information about appropriate face coverings.
- **Keep your hands clean:** Wash your hands often. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when entering the store, after touching products and surfaces and after leaving the store. Only touch products you intend to purchase and use contactless payment methods when possible. Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands and cover your coughs and sneezes.

To protect their staff and shoppers, retail stores must follow New York State guidelines. For example, stores must:

- **Screen staff** before their shift for COVID-19 symptoms or a recent exposure, and send staff home if they become sick at work.
- **Ensure at least 6 feet of distance** between people (staff and shoppers) by posting floor or wall markers and limiting store occupancy.
- **Promote hand hygiene** by having handwashing stations and placing hand sanitizer throughout the store, including in fitting rooms.
- **Frequently clean and disinfect** the premises, including shared objects and frequently-touched surfaces (for example, payment devices, counters, restrooms).
- **Require staff and customers to wear face coverings.**

For more information on COVID-19, visit nyc.gov/health/coronavirus. For real-time updates, text “COVID” to 692-692. Message and data rates may apply.

To find a testing site near you, visit nyc.gov/covidtest, text “COVID TEST” to 855-48 or call 311.

The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves. 11.16.20