



MOVERS NEWS

The Leading Voice of the Moving and Storage Industry Since 1937

Albany, NY – December 2021

Dear members,

It's hard to believe we're coming to the end of another year of conducting business amidst the ever changing conditions and impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. With new variants emerging and Covid cases continuing to rise, and as we all navigate this holiday season, I hope this issue of Movers News finds you safe, happy and healthy, and remind you that we are here to help.

Association representative recently met with NYS Department of Transportation personnel, at their offices in Albany. We regularly meet with DOT officials to discuss industry issues, relay any concerns we may have and to maintain a good working relationship with the department. During this most recent visit we discussed the progress of our proposed legislation, which will ultimately award the NY Attorney General's office with greater powers to combat illegal moving in NYS. The DOT stressed the importance of working together on this effort. The department also informed us that, after many years of development, their website has been updated. The DOT is no longer accepting paper applications. For those with existing NYS Operating Authority, a notarized Carrier System Access Request Form must be submitted to access existing accounts ([Carrier Certification System Access Request Form](#)). You can access the website via <https://www.dot.ny.gov/index>

You can also find a digital copy of "The Movers Guide to Transporting Household Goods in New York State" which is given to every new applicant of household goods authority, and contains important industry information and guidance. You can also access this guide here

<https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/operating/osss/repository/The%20Movers%20Guide%20to%20Transporting%20Household%20Goods%20in%20NYS.pdf>

In this issue of Movers News you will find updates and news from the ATA and IAM, legislative updates and what you need to know about COVID. NYSMWA will also hold be holding a Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, January 13th, at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Troy, NY. All members are welcome to attend. If you're curious about what your Board and Association does, please join us!! Contact me for more information.

As always, please don't hesitate to share any of your personal moving stories, or best practices and recommendations.

Stay safe, everyone, and Happy Holidays!!

Bill Whalen,

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What You Need to Know-NYS Coronavirus Update

Over 40 new vaccine and booster pop-ups. As part of extensive efforts to get all New Yorkers fully vaccinated and boosted, NYS is partnering with local health departments and community partners to launch over 40 new pop-up vaccination sites across the state. [Learn more and find a pop-up site.](#) And remember, as of 12/17, you can get vaccinated from one of over 5,600 active providers across the state. [Find a site near you.](#)

Mask or vax requirement now in effect. Now through January 15, businesses must require either proof of vaccination or mask-wearing indoors for everyone on their premises. [Find answers to frequently asked questions about the temporary requirement.](#)

One million rapid tests. With cases on the rise and the omicron variant here, NYS wants to ensure that everyone who wants a test can get one. One million rapid tests arrived at local health departments this week and will be going to areas most in need. [Find a testing site near you.](#)

This week's covid trends. As of December 18, 2021, **3,880** New Yorkers are hospitalized with COVID-19. Our 7-day percentage positivity average is **6.88%**, which is **up** from **4.61%** last week. There were **83.26** cases per 100K statewide.

According to the CDC as of December 18, 2021, **94.3%** of adult New Yorkers have received at least one vaccine dose. So far, **32,372,596** total vaccine doses have been administered, and **136,402** doses have been administered over the past 24 hours.

QUESTION: How long must someone wait after a COVID diagnosis to get a vaccine?
(Toni R., Oswego County)

ANSWER: According to the [CDC](#), people with COVID-19 who have symptoms should wait to be vaccinated until they have recovered from their illness and have met the criteria for discontinuing isolation; those without symptoms should also wait until they meet the criteria before getting vaccinated.

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The New York Movers Tariff Bureau is a non - profit organization with a Board of Directors made up exclusively of movers from all areas of New York State

For information on how to join, please contact:

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Email info@nymoverstariffbureau.com



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News from the ATA

Update on the Employee Retention Credit

As we get closer to flipping the calendar to 2022, I wanted to bring to your attention an update on the Employee Retention Credit. I'm aware that some motor carriers have utilized the credit after legislation was enacted earlier this year that permitted a company to use both the Paycheck Protection Program as well as the Employee Retention Credit.

As part of the recently enacted bipartisan infrastructure legislation, there is a provision that ends the employee retention credit retroactively on Sept. 30 this year, instead of the Dec. 31 sunset date scheduled under a pandemic relief law that went into effect in March. The ERTC was originally created by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

As the infrastructure bill was not signed into law until November 15, many businesses unknowingly may have elected to file for the 4th quarter ERTC throughout October and early November. I have not heard of many motor carriers continuing to utilize the ERC this far into the pandemic, but I want to get the word out that the IRS likely will issue guidance for companies that fall into this gap. Whenever that guidance is issued, I will share it.



**Register Now for the First ATA
Moving & Storage Conference Annual Meeting!**

We are excited to invite the moving and storage community to the first in-person event with the ATA Federation – the 2022 ATA [Moving & Storage Conference Annual Meeting](#) – is scheduled for March 7-9 in Orlando, Florida.

The 2022 event is the perfect opportunity for moving and storage professionals to gather and learn about the latest solutions in the industry. We're planning a full agenda packed with educational sessions and opportunities to meet with your friends and colleagues. **Don't miss the MSC Evening Celebrating the Stars and popular MSI Auction on Tuesday evening.**

We're looking forward to a fantastic inaugural event and can't wait to see you in person this March. Register today to join us in Orlando.

News from the IAM

Walkboard Wisdom

What Every Mover Should Know About Commercial Auto Insurance

by Casey Myers

This is the first in a series of articles from **Champion Risk & Insurance Services** to provide IAM's DAB group important information about types of insurance coverage that can help you mitigate risk for your business. In future articles, we'll share information about Warehouse and Cargo liability, Workers' Comp, Employment Practices Liability Insurance (EPLI) and Cyber coverage among others.

What is Commercial Auto Insurance?

Commercial auto insurance is a policy of physical damage and liability coverages for amounts, situations, and usage. Although "auto," is in its name, it refers to many types of commercial vehicles—from automobiles used for business purposes to a wide variety of commercial vans, trucks, tractors, and trailers.

[Read More](#)

Venue Change for 2022 IAM Annual Meeting & Expo

Dear IAM member,

In early November, I was contacted by the Seattle Convention & Visitor's Bureau, the contracted site for the 2022 IAM Annual Meeting, and was told that the brand-new convention facility that we had planned to use will not be completed in time for our conference. When we originally signed the contract for the event in 2019, the planned completion timeframe was late 2021. Due to the pandemic and the resulting supply chain crisis and labor issues, the completion date was pushed back; last month, we were informed that the completion date was being further delayed, and the new target date was not until January 2023. That obviously did not fit our needs.

Once informed, we went to work immediately to find a solution. First, we attempted to find alternatives in the Seattle area that could meet our needs, without success. We were forced to pivot and find a new city, hotel and facilities that meet our requirements for the fall of 2022,

which has not been an easy undertaking. Many organizations that hold conferences had targeted the fall of 2022 as the timeframe they believed that they would return to full in-person meetings, and most hotels have been booked solid for many months.

Thankfully, with the assistance of our meeting contractor, we have just recently signed an agreement to hold our 2022 Annual Meeting in **Atlanta, Georgia**. The conference will be held November 2-5, 2022 at the [Hyatt Regency Atlanta hotel](#), located less than 12 miles (19 km) from the Atlanta International Airport.

We are incredibly excited to have found such a fabulous location on such short notice. Atlanta is a city going through an incredible resurgence and is one of the most exciting cities in the southern portion of the U.S. Atlanta is home to more than six million people and the [ninth-largest metropolitan area in the U.S.](#)

Look for more details to be rolled out soon, but be sure to pencil in the November 2-5, 2022 dates on your calendar. We look forward to hosting you.

See you Atlanta!

Sincerely,

Charles L. White, M.Ed., CAE
President, International Association of Movers

From Harter Secrest & Emery

New York Paid Family Leave Benefit Level and Premium Rate Updates Announced for 2022

The New York State Department of Financial Services updated its Paid Family Leave (PFL) employee premium rate and benefit level information for 2022. This LEGALcurrents provides the new rates and a comparison of PFL program benefits and rates from 2018 through 2022. To prepare for these changes, covered employers will want to coordinate with their payroll providers to make sure that the new employee contribution amounts will be applied beginning January 1, 2022. [Read more on our website.](#)

The OSHA COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Rule is Back...For Now

On Friday, December 17, 2021, the Sixth Circuit issued a ruling allowing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to move forward with its COVID-19 vaccination or testing rule for large employers. Pending further appeals, this means covered employers will once again have to take steps to plan for compliance, with OSHA announcing extended enforcement deadlines of January 10, 2022 (for general compliance) and February 9, 2022 (for testing requirements). This LEGALcurrents provides details about the ruling and steps employers need to take to be compliant with the requirements. [Read more on our website.](#)

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Sincerely,

Michael P. Egan, Jr., CIC
Vice President

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Legislative & Government Affairs Update

By Amy Kellogg
Partner, Harter Secrest & Emery

This has been an eventful year in New York as it relates to government and politics. The 2021 legislative was unlike any other as it was conducted fully remotely since the New York State Capitol remained closed for the duration of the legislative session and both the Senate and Assembly conducted committee meetings and legislative sessions over zoom. While we were fully remote, the pace and breadth of legislative action was like a typical in-person session. A budget was passed by the April 1 deadline and the legislature wrapped up their legislative business by June 10, 2021 with hundreds of pieces of legislation passing both houses.

We tracked many bills and monitored several pieces of legislation that could have an impact on the industry. We also worked to pass legislation that would help to address the issue of illegal movers in the industry. This is legislation we have been working on for a few years now, and it would give investigative and enforcement powers to the Attorney General's office to help assist the Department of Transportation to find and shut down illegal movers. This session, we gained a new Senate sponsor, Senator Andrew Gounardes, and we are hopeful that with him joining our Assembly sponsor, Assemblymember Michael Cusick, we can get this legislation passed during the 2022 legislative session.

While there was a normal legislative session happening, we still had the COVID-19 pandemic, and the accompanying State of Emergency declaration, in place as well. We continued to talk to key stakeholders and monitor the evolving situations to ensure that movers would remain in the essential category as needed and that any changes contemplated the impact on the industry. On June 24, 2021, then Governor Cuomo announced that the State of Emergency was over and that all executive orders that had been issued were no longer valid. While the State of Emergency is over, the COVID-19 numbers are still troublesome, and we have seen new restrictions begin to be implemented. We will continue to monitor these new restrictions and keep you updated on how they may impact the industry.

As you all know, the biggest change in New York this year occurred in early August when Governor Andrew Cuomo resigned as Governor of New York following an investigation by Attorney General Tish James, which found that there were credible allegations of sexual harassment against the Governor from current and former employees. Upon his resignation, his Lieutenant Governor, Kathy Hochul, officially became the 57th, and first woman, Governor of New York.

Upon taking office, Governor Hochul stated that she was going to have a 45-day transition period where she would review all current Commissioners and staff and make appropriate decisions about who would stay with her administration and who would leave. This 45-day period ends at the beginning of October, and at that point, we anticipate having more information on which Commissioner's will remain in place and which will move on. The Governor also stated that her initial priorities on taking office would be to identify several

proactive steps to address the COVID-19 crisis, to ensure the flow of COVID assistance to all New Yorkers who are eligible and to work to change the culture in Albany.

With Governor Hochul moving up to Governor, this left a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor. At the end of August, she announced that State Senator Brian Benjamin would be her pick for Lieutenant Governor. Senator Benjamin was first elected to the New York State Senate in 2017 as the Senator from Harlem and served as the chair of the Senate Budget and Revenue Committee. He was officially sworn in as Lieutenant Governor on September 9, 2021.

The legislature returned for a special session to deal with the eviction moratorium at the end of August. At this point, we are not anticipating another return by the legislature until the start of the 2022 legislative session, which is Wednesday, January 5, 2022. The new session will begin with Governor Hochul's first State of the State address where she will lay out her legislative priorities for the upcoming year.

It is important to note that 2022 is an election year for not only all 213 members of the Senate and Assembly but also for all the statewide elected officials, including Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller. Governor Hochul and Lieutenant Governor Benjamin have already announced that they intend to seek reelection to their current positions. It is anticipated that there will be primary challenges for all of the statewide offices on both the Democratic and Republican sides.

As always, we will monitor the legislative situation on behalf of the Association and ensure that the interests of the industry are represented.

Check Out Our Website at
<https://www.newyorkstatemovers.com/>

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A collage of various industrial equipment. At the top left, two black metal hand trucks with large wheels and a foldable deck are shown. In the top center, a silver metal hand truck with a platform and a handle is displayed. To the top right, a black metal hand truck with a large platform and a handle is shown. In the center, a long, narrow aisle of a warehouse is visible, lined with high industrial shelving units. To the bottom left, a black metal hand truck with a large platform and a handle is shown. In the bottom center, a black metal pallet jack with a handle and a platform is displayed. To the bottom right, a black metal hand truck with a large platform and a handle is shown. The background is a collage of the same equipment and the warehouse aisle, creating a repeating pattern.

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NYC Small Business Services

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/businesses/covid19-business-outreach.page>

Centers For Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/index.htm>

NYS Dept. of Health

<https://www.health.ny.gov/>

NYS Dept. of Labor

<https://www.labor.ny.gov/home/>

National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

<https://www.nfib.com/content/analysis/coronavirus/latest-on-coronavirus-from-nfib/>

US Chamber

<https://www.uschamber.com/co/start/strategy/small-business-resources-for-surviving-coronavirus>

US Small Business Administration (SBA)

<https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>

Coronavirus Information & Statistics

[Coronavirus.gov](https://coronavirus.gov)

Small business paycheck protection program

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/PPP%20--%20Overview.pdf>

Paycheck protection program (ppp) information sheet:

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/PPP%20Borrower%20Information%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

Assistance for small businesses

<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/top-priorities/cares-act/assistance-for-small-businesses>

Small Business Owner's Guide to the CARES Act

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