

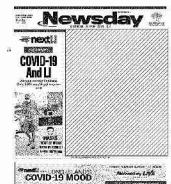


# STORM ALERT

## LI, metro area brace for winds and rain from Isaias

**A2-3 | VIDEO, UPDATES AT NEWSDAY.COM**

RAMMB/NOAA/NESDIS/AFP VIA GETTY / LIZABETH MENZIES



# LI PREPARES FOR

## Isaias upgraded to Cat. 1 hurricane, expected here by Tues. afternoon

Long Island geared up Monday for Isaias, a powerful system expected to reach the area by Tuesday afternoon, potentially knocking out power for up to 400,000 residents and halting train service, authorities said.

Isaias was upgraded again from a tropical storm to a Category 1 hurricane at 8 p.m. The storm was centered about 60 miles south of Myrtle Beach.

The storm was expected to make landfall Monday night in North Carolina as a hurricane but then weaken to a still significant tropical storm when it reaches Long Island, with up to several inches of drenching rains, sustained winds of 45 mph to 55 mph and wind gusts as high as 75 mph, the National Weather Service said.

"Isaias will only slowly weaken as it accelerates and curves northeast over the Carolinas tonight and then near NYC as a moderately strong tropical storm by late Tuesday afternoon," the weather service said in its Monday night briefing. The storm was moving faster than expected and tropical storm-force winds could arrive on Long Island as early as Tuesday morning, the briefing said.

"I have directed our state agencies to deploy emergency assets to problematic areas to assist our local partners, and I am asking New Yorkers to be diligent and stay ready in case the storm intensifies on Tuesday," Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said in a statement.

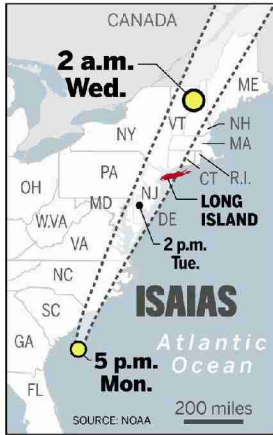
Localized flooding, rip currents and dangerous marine conditions are expected.

The National Weather Service issued a coastal flood warning for South Shore communities from 8 p.m. Tuesday to 1 a.m. Wednesday and a coastal flood advisory for more minor flooding on the North Shore from 9 p.m. Tuesday to 2 a.m. Wednesday.

But one mitigating factor could be the timing of the storm, if it strikes Long Island after the morning high tide.

"As the storm comes in, you

This story was reported by **John Valenti, Olivia Winslow, Cecilia Dowd, Candice Ferrette, Alfonso A. Castillo, Rachelle Blidner, Carl MacGowan, Mark Harrington, Michael O'Keefe, Vera Chinese, Ted Phillips, Denise M. Bonilla, Deborah S. Morris, Sarina Trangle, Ken Schachter, Daysi Calavia-Robertson, Zachary R. Dowdy** and **David Reich-Hale**. It was written by Winslow and Dowdy.



Crews prepare for Tropical Storm Isaias at Jones Beach on Monday

Long Island, adding that he expects significant coastal flooding. But he said the timing of high tides, which don't coincide with the height of the storm, should spare the region considerable damage.

Still, PSEG Long Island is planning for what could be the biggest storm of its six-year tenure in the Long Island operating territory, with the potential of 200,000 to 400,000 customers losing power, a top PSEG official said Monday.

"We're planning for this to be our biggest storm that we've had on Long Island," said PSEG Long Island president and chief operating officer Dan Eichhorn, adding that depending on how the storm tracks as it nears the area damage could be "significant."

Eichhorn said the utility has already begun plans to bring in upward of 2,500 line-workers from off the Island, in addition to its force of 700 PSEG line workers and on-Island contractors. Already, the utility has

some 1,800 crews on the way, with the balance expected to be secured to arrive Tuesday or Wednesday, depending on need.

Eichhorn said while winds are expected to be heavy, so-lace may come in the fact that Isaias is projected to be a fast-moving storm, with the worst winds lasting just four to six hours. "It's one thing that's in our favor," he said. "It's not a storm that's going to stay over our area."

The expected high winds could result in the Long Island Rail Road suspending all service, transportation officials warned. At a Manhattan news conference Monday, leaders from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority — the LIRR's parent organization — acknowledged the potential for much of its transit system to be halted. The suspension would affect the MTA's two commuter railroads — the LIRR and Metro-North — as well as aboveground New York City

# STRENGTHENING STORM



HOWARD SCHNAPP

in Wantagh. ■ Video: [newsday.com/li](https://newsday.com/li)

## WHERE TO GET HELP

Across Long Island, call 911 if there is an emergency requiring immediate attention of police, fire or EMS.

### PSEG Long Island for downed wires or power outages:

800-490-0075  
**National Grid for natural gas leaks:** 800-490-0045  
**Long Island American Red Cross:** 516-747-3500  
**NICE Bus:** 516-228-4000  
**Long Island Rail Road:** 718-217-5477

### IN NASSAU COUNTY

**Nassau County main number:** 516-571-3000  
**Nassau County Office of Emergency Management:** 516-573-0636  
**Nassau County police non-emergency number:** 516-573-8800

### IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

**Suffolk County:** 311  
**Suffolk County police non-emergency:** 631-852-COPS (2677)  
**Fire, rescue and emergency services non-emergency:** 631-852-4900

subway and bus routes.

"If we experience sustained winds of 39 miles an hour for an extended period of time, we would shut down service temporarily to ensure the safety of our riding public, and ensure the infrastructure, as well," said Robert Free, LIRR senior vice president of operations.

"This is a serious storm, and we're taking it very seriously," said MTA Chief Operating Officer Mario Pélouquin, who urged riders to keep checking the MTA's website, mobile app and Twitter account for service updates.

Pélouquin said infrastructure resiliency upgrades put in place following superstorm Sandy in 2012 have made the MTA better prepared. He noted that the agency on Monday tested new "flood doors" installed in its South Ferry subway station, and they "performed flawlessly."

Still, Pélouquin said it would be "no surprise" to see waters pouring into subway stations

from flooded streets above. The MTA has water pumps to deal with those situations, he said.

As for other precautions, the MTA is also banning empty tractor trailers and tandem trucks on its bridges from noon Tuesday until midnight, and is shifting to a weekend schedule on Metro-North, where there is concern that high winds could knock down trees and power lines near train tracks.

Nassau County's bus provider, the Nassau Inter-County Express, or NICE, also advised customers to "anticipate delays" on Tuesday because of the storm.

One Babylon Town resident, Donna Collins of Shore Road in Lindenhurst — which abuts a canal — was being proactive Monday and gathering food just in case the storm is worse than experts expect.

"Every time we get a tropical storm the canal seems to come over, the bay comes from the other way so we get

hit both ways and everybody kinda gets trapped," she said. "I'm getting the eggs, the milk, the bread, stuff for my pet... I don't want to overbuy in case we lose the electric."

In Brentwood, Suffolk County Community College is serving as a staging area for PSEG equipment and vehicles through Friday, school officials said.

Hospitals on Long Island plan to activate emergency contingency plans, in case the storm knocks out power, or storm surges flood a region where the facility is located. For example, Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center in West Islip is only "yards away from the Great South Bay, so if need be, and there is a storm surge, we'd be ready to transfer patients to other locations," said Dr. Patrick O'Shaughnessy, executive vice president and chief clinical officer at Catholic Health Services, which operates six hospitals on Long Island.