



***New Jersey Office of Emergency Management***  
***State Emergency Operations Center***  
**COVID-19 Event**  
**Situation Report #6**  
**March 16, 2020**  
**0900 hours**

**A. Current Synopsis:**

- The CDC is now recommending that all events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the US be canceled or postponed for the next eight (8) weeks. This includes conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings, and other types of assemblies.
- Bergen County will be the first County to implement "mass testing" given the spread in their County. Details will be announced shortly by County Executive Tedesco.
- NJ Hospital Association is considering walk-in clinics for "worried well" and asymptomatic persons. Home specimen collection also being researched and we anticipate more corporate labs coming on line to process the specimens more rapidly.
- The Attorney General's Office and NJDOH are looking into the request regarding suspending Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) regulations. As this is a federal mandate, suspension or relaxation of these rules would have to come from the federal government. In the absence of that suspension, NJDOH advises hospitals have implemented "quick assessment" of walk-ins to mitigate concerns caused by extended admission processes.
- All New Jersey MVCs will be closed until March 30, 2020.
- Governor Phil Murphy and New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission Chief Administrator Sue Fulton have announced that due to the COVID-19 outbreak and to protect the public, the MVC will extend expiration dates for driver licenses, registrations, and inspection stickers. Effective immediately, the NJMVC will grant a two-month extension for:
  - Driver licenses expiring in March, April, and May
  - Registrations expiring in March, April, and May
  - Inspection stickers expiring in March, April, and May
- For expiration dates falling in March, the renewal deadline is extended to May; for expiration dates falling in April, the renewal deadline is extended to June; for expiration dates falling in May, the renewal deadline is extended to July. Customers should check NJMVC.gov for the latest information and updates.  
<https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/press/archives/2020/031320.htm>
- Presidential Declaration of Emergency has been declared nationwide warranting exemption from certain Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSARs) (UNDER 49 CFR § 390.23 - Emergency Declaration #2020-002). Those Code of



Federal Regulations include Parts 390 through 399 which include safe operation of commercial vehicles, parts and accessories for safe operation, and hours of service of drivers. This declaration is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the termination of the emergency or until 11:59 P.M. (ET) on April 12, 2020, whichever occurs sooner. For questions, drivers or motor carriers may call the New Jersey State Police, Transportation Safety Bureau at 609-452-2601.

<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency/emergency-declaration-under-49-cfr-ss-39023-no-2020-002>

- The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), (609) 963-6900 daily hours and levels are listed below:
  - 0800 and 1800 hours, Full Activation Level 1- contact SEOC at Ext 2.
  - 1600 and 0800 hours, Enhanced Monitoring Level 3-contact IWW at Ext 1.
- As of March 15, 2020 at 1800hrs, 625 school districts have closed, 23 are for professional development and staff training, 7 are for precautionary cleaning, 510 are concerned about potential exposure for COVID-19, 83 have confirmed exposure within the school community and 2 have student, faculty or staff with presumptive or confirmed positive cases.

<https://www.nj.gov/education/topics/index.shtml>

- The New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) has released a checklist for emergency preparedness plans for schools. The guidance can be located at: <https://www.nj.gov/education/topics/NJDOE%20Checklist%20for%20Emergency%20Preparedness%20Plans.pdf>

## B. Virus Statistics

<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

	Total Cases	Recovered	Total Deaths
Worldwide	169,387	77,257	6,513
United States	3,774	12	69
New Jersey	108	0	2

Source: Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, as of 3/15/20 2330hrs

- NJDOH data specific for New Jersey are located at the following link [https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019\\_dashboard.shtml](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_dashboard.shtml)



### C. ESF Activities

All ESFs are represented at the SEOC.

- ESF Summaries

- ESF #1 Transportation - NJ Transit has launched a dedicated web page offering a centralized location to highlight the many initiatives the agency has undertaken to protect customers and employees against COVID-19. The web page, [njtransit.com/COVID19](https://njtransit.com/COVID19), is available on both desktop and through the mobile app. In addition to outlining the steps the agency has taken, the website also includes a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section. Posters reminding customers of best-practices to prevent the spread of germs will be appearing on NJ TRANSIT vehicles throughout the system in the coming days.  
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) has launched a dedicated web page concerning their response to COVID-19 and can be located here: <https://www.panynj.gov/port-authority/en/alerts/coronavirus-updates.html>.
- ESF #3 Public Works & Engineering / ESF #10 Hazardous Materials - NJDEP continues to monitor COVID-19 situation updates and coordinate with NJESF-3 and NJESF-10 stakeholders and partners. The Water & Wastewater, Dams, Chemical & Hazardous Materials, Petroleum, Nuclear, Radiological, Solid & Hazardous Waste sectors/facilities continue to prepare and protect their operations. Main concerns that have been mentioned are staffing and supply chain shortages that could impact their abilities to ensure continuous services, adequate personal protective equipment critical for worker protection, and permit compliance. Additional conference calls will be conducted this week.
- ESF #6 Mass Care – DHS Commissioner Carole Johnson wants to ensure vulnerable populations are being taken care of during this time and that all County OEMs remind all of their local jurisdictions to continue to maintain wellness checks as needed.
- ESF #7 Resource Support – the probability of CERT activations remains high. Potential activations include but are not limited to staffing local OEMs (fielding 211 calls) and additional responsibilities to include food deliveries for those who are homebound. All county CERT groups have been notified through the county contacts and have advised them to begin making the appropriate preparations.
- ESF #8 NJDOH - Communicable Disease Service (CDS) is accepting COVID-19 calls from local health departments, health care providers, and medical



facility staff. During regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8am-5pm, call (609) 826-5964. After hours and weekends, please call (609) 392-2020.

- The public should continue to call the 24/7 COVID-19 hotline: 1-800-222-1222 or 1-800-962-1253 if using a non-NJ cell phone. **The public hotline cannot provide information about where or how to get tested, testing results, or provide personal medical advice.**
  - COVID 19 Temporary Enforcement Guidance for Fit Testing <https://www.nj.gov/health/workplacehealthandsafety/documents/peosh/COVID%2019%20Temporary%20Enforcement%20Guidance-Fit%20Testing.pdf>
  - Anticipated NJ 2-1-1 live date is Wednesday, March 18, in coordination with NJ PIES hotline to significantly increase call capacity and reduce wait time.
  - Created internal NJDOH workgroup to respond to the needs of vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - NJDOH is stressing that individuals with NO symptoms are not recommended to be tested. Individuals with MILD symptoms should stay home if they are sick and follow the guidance of their healthcare provider.
- ESF #12 – NJBPU – BPU remains in constant contact with utility sector. Some utilities have ceased entering private homes for service calls.
  - ESF #13 - Public Safety & Security - New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) is temporarily suspending visits for the next 30 days, effective March 14, 2020 at 1700hrs, to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
  - ESF #15 - External Communications (NJOEM) is coordinating with the Governor's Office PIO and is engaged with social media.

#### D. Status of other Sectors

- Labor/civil service
  - Guidelines and FAQs for state employees  
<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200310c.shtml>



#### E. County Activities

- Activated County EOCs are shaded below:

Atlantic	Bergen	Burlington	Camden	Cape May	Cumberland	Essex
Gloucester	Hudson	Hunterdon	Mercer	Middlesex	Monmouth	Morris
Ocean	Passaic	Salem	Somerset	Sussex	Union	Warren

- Counties that have declared a State of Emergency are shaded below:

Atlantic	Bergen	Burlington	Camden	Cape May	Cumberland	Essex
Gloucester	Hudson	Hunterdon	Mercer	Middlesex	Monmouth	Morris
Ocean	Passaic	Salem	Somerset	Sussex	Union	Warren

In addition to the above listed counties who have declared, multiple municipalities have also declared a State of Emergency.

#### F. Government Closures

- Glassboro, Pennsauken, Manchester, Lakehurst, Cherry Hill

#### G. State agency EOC activations

- Port Authority of NY & NJ EOC is activated.
- NJ Transit EOC is activated.

#### H. Planned meetings, calls, press conferences

- FEMA conference call at 0930 hrs
- NJVOAD Conference call at 1000 hrs
- FEMA Region II conference call at 1130 hrs
- Food Chain Supply conference call at 1600 hrs

#### I. NJOEM Precautionary Actions Taken

- All training and non-Coronavirus related meetings have been canceled until further notice. March SEMPS has been canceled and county coordinator's meetings will be virtual.
- Instituted restrictions on building access and increased sanitation practices.

#### J. Resources

- All State bid vendors are out of or back-ordered on all masks and hand sanitizer.
- Other items like cleaning products, gloves, and eye protections can still be ordered from vendors.



- **For specific procurement guidance from Treasury, refer to memo sent from the NJEOC on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1557hrs.**
- All resource requests must go through County OEMs to New Jersey OEM. Follow normal procedures for requesting resources through E Team.
- NJDOH are providing health care facilities PPE from Health & Human Services – Strategic National Stockpile.

#### **K. Financial/Administrative Guidance**

- All state, county and municipal agencies must be capturing all time and expenses accrued in relation to planning, prevention, response and recovery efforts.

#### **L. Other sources of information**

- The Governor issued Executive Order 103 Declaring a State of Emergency. Please read here <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-103.pdf>
- President Trump declared a nationwide emergency pursuant to Sec. 501 (b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the “Stafford Act”). This increases federal support to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in its role as the lead federal agency for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response. As a result of the President’s action, FEMA has been directed to assist state and local governments and other eligible entities with the health and safety actions they take on behalf of the American public. Specific information concerning this declaration can be found here: <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/03/13/covid-19-emergency-declaration>
- CDC [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)
- NJDOH <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>
- NJPIES 1-800-222-1222
- CDC Guidance for first responders and PSAPs <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>
- State of New Jersey Emergency Medical Dispatch Guide cards  
<https://www.nj.gov/911/home/highlights/EMD%20Guidecards%202020%20Final.pdf>