The Somerset County Department of Health is the lead county agency to coordinate public health disease response in emergencies, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), local hospitals, medical providers, emergency medical services and other local health partners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Somerset County, New Jersey</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Event Name</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Time</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Next Update</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Situation Update No.</strong></td>
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**Want to know what’s new? Look for the highlighted sections.**

**What is the Current Situation?**
- The Somerset County Department of Health continues to actively respond to the coronavirus pandemic.
- As of August 15, 2020 -
  - CDC is reporting a total of 5,228,817 cases of COVID-19 in the US, and a total of 166,317 deaths.
  - NJDOH is reporting a total of 187,164 cases and 14,064 deaths.
  - Somerset County has a total of 4,780 cases and 490 deaths. Residents can call 908-231-7111 for an automated reading of the current coronavirus (COVID-19) case count in Somerset County, NJ. Visit our website for information via our dashboard: [www.co.somerset.nj.us/health](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/health).

**How Can I Protect Myself from the New Coronavirus?**
The CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. To protect yourself, you should:

Where can I get tested?

- Contact your healthcare provider for guidance pertaining to your individual health symptoms.
- Somerset County in collaboration with Raritan Valley Community College will be holding a COVID-19 drive-thru testing site on Thursday August 20, from 10am – 1pm at Raritan Valley Community College, 118 Lamington Road, Branchburg. Patients must schedule an appointment for testing. Appointments can be made online at https://somerset-hunterdon.adlabscovidtest.com. Residents without computer access or wishing to schedule an appointment for children ages 5-18 are may call the Somerset County COVID-19 testing information line at 908-203-6014. The information line is open Monday-Friday, from 9:00am – 1:00pm, not including holidays. **Anyone holding an appointment who needs to CANCEL is asked to email coronavirus@co.somerset.nj.us, AT LEAST 24 HOURS BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT TIME so we can accommodate as many residents as possible.**

- Looking for a COVID-19 Test? Check with your doctor first, as many healthcare providers can test their patients. The document below lists a number of testing sites in Somerset County that may be able to provide COVID-19 testing. Please contact the facilities directly for their requirements: https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/home/showdocument?id=38603 (updated)

- For information on testing centers in New Jersey, visit: https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing.
- Resources for individuals who are undocumented or uninsured can be found here: https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID-19_Resources_forUndocumented_and_UninsuredFactsheet.pdf

What is being reopened in NJ?

For archived information, see previous SCDOH situation updates here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This week’s update: What is being reopened in NJ?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>August 10</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) will release a directive setting mandatory benchmarks for New Jersey’s long-term care facilities. The directive will establish phases for reopening based on the time since the last outbreak, strong baseline infection-control measures, requirements for PPE stockpiling, and requirements for resident and staff testing including weekly coronavirus tests for all staff.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>August 11</strong></td>
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<td>• Updated travel advisory includes Hawaii, South Dakota and the Virgin Islands. <strong>Alaska, New Mexico, Ohio and Rhode Island were removed. Current list can be found here.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>August 12</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Reopening schools and colleges for in-person instruction - School districts that cannot meet all health and safety standards for safe in-person instruction will begin their school year with all-remote learning.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>August 14</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| • November 3rd General Election will be primarily vote-by-mail.  
  o Online voter registration will be active on September 4th.  
  o Each municipality will open at least one in-person polling site.  
  o All public schools to close to in-person instruction on November 3rd. |

Somerset County facilities are closed to the public until further notice. For county service updates, visit: https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/residents/situation-report-2677.
What does Law Enforcement Need to Know?


What do Hospitals and Medical Laboratories Need to Know?


What do Healthcare Professionals Need to Know?

- Report any at-risk-patients and their clinical status to the local health department where the patient resides. Public distribution list for Somerset County health departments visit: https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/home/showdocument?id=35658 (Updated August 2020)
- Patients should be evaluated, and the public health department contacted on a case-by-case basis if clinical presentation or exposure history is equivocal (e.g., uncertain travel or exposure).
- If you work in a healthcare facility and are running low on personal protective equipment (PPE), contact your local Office of Emergency Management to request PPE.
- If patient meets the criteria, place facemask on patient, and isolate in a private room or a separate area.

What do Veterinarians Need to Know?

- Information for veterinary clinical settings to facilitate preparedness and ensure practices are in place to help people and animals stay safe and healthy can be obtained from CDC at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/veterinarians.html (updated August 12, 2020)

What are the Recommendations for Travelers?

Due to the evolving situation, please check CDC’s Travel Health page for COVID-19 for the most current national/international recommendations: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html.

- Effective midnight, June 24, 2020: New Jersey, New York and Connecticut today announced a joint incoming travel advisory, that all individuals traveling from states with significant community spread of COVID-19 quarantine for a 14-day period from the time of last contact within the identified state. For an updated list, visit: https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/travel-information/which-states-are-on-the-travel-advisory-list-are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-new-jersey
### Date Added | States
--- | ---
**June 24** | • Alabama  
• Arkansas  
• Arizona  
• Florida  
• North Carolina  
• South Carolina  
• Texas  
• Utah

**June 30** | • California  
• Georgia  
• Iowa  
• Idaho  
• Louisiana  
• Mississippi  
• Nevada  
• Tennessee

**July 7** | • Kansas  
• Oklahoma

**July 14** | • New Mexico  
• Ohio  
• Wisconsin

**July 21** | • Alaska  
• Delaware (re-added)  
• Indiana  
• Maryland  
• Minnesota (removed)  
• Missouri  
• Montana  
• Nebraska  
• North Dakota  
• Virginia  
• Washington

**July 28** | • District of Columbia  
• Illinois  
• Kentucky  
• Minnesota  
• Puerto Rico

**August 4** | • Rhode Island  
• District of Columbia (removed)  
• Delaware (removed)

**August 10** | • Hawaii  
• South Dakota  
• Virgin Islands  
• Alaska (removed)  
• New Mexico (removed)  
• Ohio (removed)  
• Rhode Island (removed)

- On July 20, New Jersey Department of Health launched an electronic survey to collect information on out-of-state travelers arriving in NJ airports. Travelers can take the survey by:
  1) Texting NJTRAVEL to 898211; 2) Visiting [https://covid19.nj.gov/forms/njtravel](https://covid19.nj.gov/forms/njtravel); 3) Scanning a QR code available at NJ airports

### What do Schools Need to Know?
- On June 26, 2020 Governor Murphy announced, absent a change in public health data, public schools will open for in-person instruction and operations in some capacity at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.
- On July 24, Governor Murphy announced that guidance will be released that will allow parents and guardians to have the option to choose all-remote learning for their children for the upcoming school year.
- On August 3, Governor Murphy announced face coverings will be required for all students at all times inside school buildings.
- On August 7, Governor Murphy announced:
  - The New Jersey Department of Agriculture will be releasing a memo clarifying that schools must continue to provide free and reduced-price meals to eligible students.
The New Jersey Department of Education has released the FAQ for school districts on www.nj.gov/education.

- On August 12, Governor Murphy announced school districts that cannot meet all health and safety standards for safe in-person instruction will begin their school year with all-remote learning. Public school districts must show plans for satisfying these standards and anticipated date to resume in-person instruction.
- The school immunization requirements will not be waived for the upcoming school year. The CDC’s 2020 Immunization schedules can be found here.

For more information: https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_schools.shtml
https://www.nj.gov/education/reopening/NJDOETheRoadBack.pdf

What do Businesses Need to Know?

- Review your emergency plans for your company or business.
- The Somerset County Office of Emergency Management is continuing to accept donations of personal protective equipment. For more information, visit: https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/residents/covid-19-status/emergency-management.
- All grocery store and retail employees and customers are required to wear face coverings or masks. Exempt from this rule are children under the age of two as well as anyone who can prove a medical reason for not wearing a mask. Medical masks should be reserved for healthcare workers.
- Somerset County Department of Health created a checklist addressing key points in the NJDOH Executive Directive No. 20-014 to assist establishments wishing to offer outdoor dining.
  - English - https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/home/showdocument?id=38044
  - Spanish - https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/home/showdocument?id=38042
- As the lead agency for coordinating public health disease response, the SCDOH communicates with hospitals, laboratories, emergency responders, medical providers, schools and other community organizations to share information and improve response to public health emergencies. Representatives of these organizations are encouraged to sign up for notifications at: http://bit.ly/SCLINCS.

For more information: https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_schoolbusiness.shtml

Preparing Individuals and Communities

- Everyone should follow general guidelines for hand hygiene and for preventing disease, as noted in the “How Can I Protect Myself from the New Coronavirus?” section above.
- Monitor yourself and your family members for symptoms of COVID-19. Mildly ill patients should be encouraged to stay home and contact their healthcare provider by phone for guidance about clinical management. Patients who have severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, should seek care...
immediately. Older patients and individuals who have underlying medical conditions or are immunocompromised should contact their physician early in the course of even mild illness.

- You should continue to social distance – this means keeping about 2 arms’ length between you and other people.

- **Face coverings are now required in outdoor public spaces when social distancing is not practicable.**
  - *Exceptions for individuals eating/drinking at an outdoor dining establishment, when wearing a mask would inhibit health or safety, or individuals under 2 years old.* For more information about how to make and wear masks properly, visit: [www.co.somerset.nj.us/health](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/health).

- All grocery store and retail employees and customers are required to wear face coverings or masks. Exempt from this rule are children under the age of two as well as anyone who can prove a medical reason for not wearing a mask. Medical masks should be reserved for healthcare workers.

- **Indoor gatherings** are now limited to **25% of a room's capacity** – with a maximum of **25 people**.


- Resources for individuals who are undocumented or uninsured can be found here: [https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID-19_Resources_forUndocumented_and_UninsuredFactsheet.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID-19_Resources_forUndocumented_and_UninsuredFactsheet.pdf)


- NJDOH COVID-19 health education resources for farm workers, available in Spanish, Creole, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Cambodian and French:
  - [https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_community.shtml](https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_community.shtml)

- Guidance for Sports Activities: (7-9-20)


- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Toolkits:**

  ➔ **For more information:** [https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_community.shtml](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_community.shtml)

### Mental Health Resources

![Mental Health Resources](image-url)
• The Atlantic Health System is hosting a Coronavirus Grief and Loss support group. To register call 862-260-3199 (option 3) for an invitation. The support group is web-based and is led by Atlantic Health behavioral health clinicians and social workers. For more information, visit: https://www.atlantichealth.org/about-us/stay-connected/news/content-central/2020/covid-19-coronavirus/support-groups.html

• A free emotional support helpline is now available to deaf and hard of hearing New Jerseyans feeling the emotional and mental toll of COVID-19. New Jerseyans can call the videophone helpline at 973-870-0677 for free, confidential support. Direct communication in sign language will be offered from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday by live trained specialists.

• Mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic is vital. NJ MentalHealthCares Helpline for free emotional support from trained staff – 866-202-Help (4357) or text NJHOPE to 51684 - 7 days per week – 8am to 8pm.

This is an ongoing situation, so everyone should keep up-to date on the most current information by regularly visiting one of these trusted public health sources:

The SCDOH is taking proactive preparedness precautions by monitoring the situation, enhancing disease surveillance, working with area healthcare providers, and keeping the public informed.

The most up-to-date information will be made available on the SCDOH website at www.co.somerset.nj.us/health.

If you have questions on this guidance, please email coronavirus@co.somerset.nj.us.

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