



**City of Clifton
Department of Health
900 Clifton Ave.
Clifton, NJ 07013**



**Clifton Health Department
Public Health**
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

John E. Biegel, III
Health Officer
Director Human Services

Phone: 973-470-5760
Fax: 973-470-5768
Email: jbiegel@cliftonnj.org

Please note that information highlighted in yellow reflects new and updated information.

Updated: December 22, 2020 5:30pm

(Clifton) - The Clifton Health Department, in consultation with the City Manager, Mayor and Council, understands that residents are concerned about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The City of Clifton has had **185 new COVID-19 cases since Friday, 12/18**, bringing the total COVID-19 case count to **6,370**. **Upon further investigation, a number of cases were found to either be out of jurisdiction and transferred out, or found to be duplicates of existing cases. These cases have been removed from the overall spreadsheet count.**

With a heavy heart, we are announcing an additional 4 COVID-19-related deaths, involving a 69-year old female, a 94-year old female, a 94-year old male, and a 99-year old female. Our sincerest condolences go out to the loved ones of these community members. The City of Clifton now has a total of 176 deaths.

Please note that the next press release will be issued on Saturday, 12/19/2020.

Information on how to make an appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccination is still forthcoming. Once we have this information, we will inform the community through a reverse 9-1-1 message, the Health Department website, Facebook, and Instagram.

The Clifton Health Department would like to wish residents a safe and healthy Christmas! Remember to wear your mask, practice social distancing, wash your hands frequently, cover your cough/sneeze, and stay home and get tested if you are not feeling well.

A few other important reminders this holiday season:

- Try to limit family gatherings to include *only* immediate household members. This is the safest way to celebrate in-person. Consider using technology to live stream with others who are outside of the immediate household.**
- People who have been told to quarantine or isolate should NOT attend any gathering, regardless of whether it is held indoors or outdoors. They should complete the recommended period of time for the quarantine/isolation to protect others. This includes people who are awaiting test results. People who are tested should quarantine away from others until they receive their test results.**
- Do not host or attend gatherings with anyone who has COVID-19 or anyone who has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.**

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For more information, please see the recent guidance issued by the New Jersey Department of Health, which can be found here:

https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_GuidanceWinterHolidays.pdf

Of these deaths, 45 have involved residents at the Daughters of Miriam Nursing Home. Please be advised that this number is reflective of the deaths identified in the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System.

Please note that all non-essential out-of-state travel is discouraged. Residents and visitors coming to New Jersey, with limited exceptions, are to observe a 14-day self-quarantine. This recommendation excludes transient travel.

Here are some important numbers to remember this holiday season. Please reach out if you are having a hard time.

Crisis Text Line: Text "NJ" to 741741
Family Helpline: 1-800-843-5437
Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-572-7233
Mental Health Hotline: 866-202-4357

As of November 25, New Jersey will no longer utilize previously outlined metrics to inform its travel advisory. The Department of Health will issue additional information in the coming days regarding travel precautions. Individuals should follow the state's current guidance until a new policy is issued. This guidance can be found here:
<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/travel-and-transportation/are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-new-jersey>

Due to an increasing volume of cases, you will notice that many of the boxes in the case information attachment are labeled "under investigation." We are still in the process of following-up with individuals and obtaining this data. We will continue to update this spreadsheet as this information becomes available.

The number of COVID-19 cases is increasing. Please do not become complacent. It is very important to remember the following preventative steps you can take to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19:

Practice handwashing regularly for at least 20 seconds

- **Wear a face covering in public settings**
- **Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth**

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- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces**
- **Stay home, especially when you are sick, and avoid close contact with people who are sick**

In addition, be sure to practice the following social distancing measures:

- **Keep a distance of at least 6 feet with other people**
- **Avoid unnecessary physical contact, such as handshaking**
- **Avoid attending crowded events and social gatherings. Consider replacing in-person gatherings with video chatting, voice messaging and phone calls**

As a reminder to residents, if you are being tested, remain home while awaiting your results, whether or not you're showing symptoms, to avoid potentially infecting other people. Also remember, you cannot test out of quarantine. A negative test means you are negative at the time of testing and you can still test positive during the quarantine period. If you are a close contact, you must quarantine for the full 14 days.

For a list of locations near you that are offering COVID-19 testing, please refer to this link for the most up-to-date information: <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing#test-sites>

As a reminder, residents can find helpful resources (e.g. health insurance, job assistance, food assistance, etc.) that provide support during the COVID-19 pandemic here:

<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/assistance-and-benefits/what-types-of-benefits-or-assistance-are-available-to-me-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

For a list of locations near you that are offering COVID-19 testing, please refer to this link for the most up-to-date information: <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing#test-sites>

The Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders is offering free COVID-19 testing at home in partnership with Vault Health. This program is available to Passaic County residents only. Health insurance is not required. For more information, or to register, please check out this link: https://www.passaiccountynj.org/government/departments/health/at-home_covid-19_testing/index.php.

The Health Department is in the process of contacting earlier COVID-19 cases for follow-up. A “Follow-Up Status” column has been added to the spreadsheet attachment to give the community a better understanding of the number of recoveries so far. This column will be updated regularly as we receive information from follow-up interviews.

In the attachment, you will notice that we have now included ALL cases we have received so far, including Little Falls cases and transferred cases. This does not change today’s total case count, and it is being done for our convenience in order to better track our cases.

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If you receive a call from the Clifton Health Department for case follow-up, there are specific questions we would ask. We would **never** ask for your social security number, so if you receive a call from anyone claiming to be a representative of the Clifton Health Department who asks for your social security number, please hang up immediately and report it to the Police Department at 973-470-5911.

As of 4/3/2020, the CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies). The CDC advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings should: fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face, be secured with ties or ear loops, include multiple layers of fabric, allow for breathing without restriction, be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

The cloth face coverings recommended are **not** surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance. For more information on cloth face masks, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Please note: the Health Department does not have the capacity to distribute masks, sanitizers, and other supplies to the public.

The CDC has recently expanded its list of COVID-19 symptoms to include the following:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Some people who are exposed may show mild symptoms, while others may show severe illness. Remember that symptoms can appear **anywhere from 2-14 days after an exposure.**

Clifton parks may only be utilized for walking, running or bicycling only. If you plan on attending a park, you must have a mask on (that covers your nose and mouth) at all times. There is to be no congregating or stopping at any time.

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The following executive orders signed by Governor Murphy remain in effect:

Executive Order 133, signed on 4/29/2020, re-opening state/county parks and golf courses.

Executive Order 142, signed on 5/13/2020, which allows the following:

- **The restart of non-essential construction, effective 5/18/2020 at 6:00am.** Safeguards must be put in place, including clear posting of safety protocols, preventing overcrowding, prohibiting non-essential visitors, staggering work hours and breaks, and ensuring proper sanitation.
- **Drive-in events under social distancing guidelines, effective immediately**

Executive Order 143, signed on 5/14/2020, allowing beaches, boardwalks, lakes, and lakeshores to remain open with social distancing measures in place. The Order takes effect on Friday, 5/22/2020.

Executive Order 145, signed on 5/15/2020, allowing for the resumption of elective surgical and other invasive procedures, effective 5/26/2020.

Executive Order 147, signed on 5/18/2020, allowing additional outdoor recreational areas and businesses to restart their operations, effective 5/22/2020:

- Golf ranges
- Batting cages
- Horseback riding
- Private tennis clubs
- Community gardens
- Shooting and archery ranges

Executive Order 149, signed on 5/29/2020, which includes the following:

- Child care centers may reopen effective 6/15
- Non-contact organized sports activities can restart on 6/22
- Youth day camps can begin on 7/6

Information on COVID-19 Summer Camp and Youth Camp Safety Standards can be found here: <https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/sanitation-safety/youthcamps.shtml>

Information on guidance for outdoor organized sports can be found here: https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_GuidanceForSportsActivities.pdf

Executive Order 150, signed on 6/3/2020, permitting outdoor dining effective Monday, June 15th. Establishments will be required to follow a number of COVID-19 health and safety

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protocols issued by the Department of Health, which can be found here:

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/docs/ExecutiveDirective20-014OutdoorDining.pdf>.

Clifton restaurants that plan to reopen for outdoor dining on 6/15/2020 must complete the Application for License and provide a detailed seating/plot plan to the City for approval. Restaurants must also comply with Executive Order #150. To fill out the application, or for more information on guidelines and procedures that must be followed, please visit: <https://www.cliftonnj.org/344/Outdoor-Cafe-Application-2020>.

The City has prepared a list of Clifton restaurants that have been approved for outdoor dining so far. Please refer to the attachment for this information. This list will continue to be updated regularly.

Executive Order 153, signed on 6/9/2020, authorizing the reopening of pools (municipal and private club pools), effective 6/22/2020.

Executive Order 154, signed on 6/13/2020, allowing the following personal care service facilities to reopen beginning 6/22/2020:

- Beauty salons
- Barber shops
- Cosmetology shops
- Day & medical spas
- Electrology facilities
- Hair braiding shops
- Massage parlors
- Nail salons
- Tanning salons
- Tattoo parlors

Information on health and safety standards for re-opening personal care service facilities can be found here: <https://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases20/pr20200616b.html>

Executive Order 157, signed on 6/24/2020, announcing additional reopenings, including museums, aquariums, libraries, and indoor recreational facilities (bowling alleys, batting cages, shooting ranges, and arcades along the boardwalk). These locations can reopen effective 7/2/2020 at 25% capacity. This EO also announces guidelines that must be followed by these facilities, which can be found here: <https://www.nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-157.pdf>

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Playgrounds, outdoor amusement parks, and outdoor water parks may also reopen at 50% capacity so long as they follow required social distancing policies and other safety guidelines. For more information, please visit: <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/general-public/are-playgrounds-amusement-parks-and-water-parks-open-what-rules-or-safety-guidance-must-they-follow>

Executive Order 163, signed on 7/8/2020, mandating that face coverings are now REQUIRED in outdoor public spaces when social distancing is not possible. Exceptions include children under two years of age, eating and drinking at an outdoor restaurant, and situations where wearing a mask would inhibit health or safety.

Executive Order 168, signed on 7/20/2020, allowing contact drills and practices, and competitions, to resume for high-risk sports. Practices must be held at outdoor venues ONLY. All sports will have to abide by a number of health and safety protocols.

Executive Order 175, signed on 8/13/2020, officially clearing both public and nonpublic pre-K through 12 schools as well as colleges and universities to reopen for the upcoming academic year. School districts that cannot meet all health & 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 an anticipated date to resume in-person instruction.

Executive Order 192, signed on 10/28/2020, providing mandatory health and safety standards to protect all New Jersey's workers at work during the pandemic. The executive order will require both private and public sector employers to follow health and safety protocols to protect their in-person workforces.

The Order mandates that as of 6:00 a.m. on November 5th, all employers, at minimum, require individuals at the worksite to maintain at least six feet of distance from others to the maximum extent possible and require employees and visitors to wear masks when entering the worksite, subject to certain limited exceptions.

Executive Order 195, signed on 11/12/2020, announcing that effective 11/12, all restaurants, bars, clubs, and lounges that serve food and drink must close their indoor premises for business by 10 pm each day and cannot open until at least 5 am the following day. Outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery services may continue past 10 pm.

Additionally:

- Casinos must stop serving food/drinks at 10:00 PM
- All barside seating will be prohibited
- Restaurants may place tables closer than 6 feet ONLY if separated by barriers
- Individual fully-enclosed dining bubbles may be set-up for outside use

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Executive Order 196, signed on 11/16/2020, announcing important changes in indoor and outdoor gatherings: effective 11/17/2020, indoor gatherings are now limited to a maximum of 10 people.

The following indoor gatherings may continue under the current rules – limited to 25% of a room's capacity, up to 150 people:

- Religious services/celebrations and political events
- Weddings
- Funerals/memorial services
- Performances

Executive Order 204, signed on 11/30/2020, stating the following: effective 6:00am on Monday, December 7, 2020, outdoor gatherings will be restricted to 25 individuals. Exemptions include religious or political activities, funerals, memorial services, and wedding ceremonies.

Additionally, effective 6:00am on December 5, 2020, at least through January 2, 2020, all indoor youth and adult sports are being placed on a full pause. The only exceptions include collegiate-level and professional teams.

For more information pertaining to Governor Murphy's executive orders, please refer to this link: https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/approved/eo_archive.html

On 5/18/2020, Governor Murphy announced a plan to begin to cautiously re-open the State of New Jersey. Please refer to this link for more information: <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/general-public/how-does-new-jersey-plan-to-lift-restrictions-what-does-a-responsible-and-strategic-restart-of-new-jerseys-economy-look-like>

On 6/5/2020, Governor Murphy announced that on 6/15/2020, in-person customer services will restart at Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC), with a variety of pick-up and drop-off services.

For information on MVC's extended deadlines for driver's licenses, non-driver's IDs, vehicle registrations, temporary tags, and inspections, please visit: <https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/pdf/about/FREQUENTLY%20ASKED%20QUESTIONS.pdf>

Effective, 6/9/2020, the stay-at-home order has been lifted. However, residents are strongly urged to continue to practice appropriate precautions, such as wearing a face covering when going out and maintaining social distancing.

On 6/18/2020, Governor Murphy has announced that retail shopping malls may re-open on 6/29/2020, with the following requirements:

- Masks are required to be worn by employees and patrons

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- Restaurants may provide take-out or outdoor dining, but food court seating and common seating areas are to remain closed
- Theatres and arcades will remain closed

On 6/19/2020, Governor Murphy announced that, beginning on 6/21/2020, the following locations will be able to permit visitors in designated outdoor spaces:

- Nursing homes
- Assisted living residences
- Dementia care homes
- Pediatric transitional care homes
- Comprehensive personal care homes

Visitors must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms – including a temperature check – and facilities must follow safety and infection prevention and control measures in order to allow visitation.

On 6/26/2020, Governor Murphy and Department of Education Commissioner Lamont O. Repollet announced the release of “*The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education*” to assist schools with reopening in the fall. For more information, please visit:

<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200626b.shtml>

The school reopening guidance document on face coverings can be found here:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/reopening/updates/docs/RestartUpdateFacecoverings080320.pdf>

FAQs for the reopening of schools can be found here:

<https://nj.gov/education/reopening/faqs/index.shtml>

Effective Monday, 7/20, DOH will launch an electronic survey to collect information on out-of-state travelers that arrive at NJ's airports. The survey will be accessible by:

- Texting NJTRAVEL to 898211
- Visiting: <http://covid19.nj.gov/njtravel>
- Scanning a QR code on airport posters

On 8/7/2020, in an effort to urge people to answer critical calls from contact tracers, the New Jersey Department of Health unveiled an online dashboard highlighting New Jersey's contact tracing efforts throughout the state. The Contact Tracing Dashboard, which will be updated on Fridays, provides information such as: the percentage of cases successfully interviewed, those who provided contacts, contacts notified, and more. This dashboard can be found here:

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https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_dashboard.shtml

On 8/10/2020, the New Jersey Department of Health released Executive Order No. 20-026, setting mandatory benchmarks and requirements for New Jersey's long-term care facilities as they look to reopen to visitors and resume normal operations. The directive establishes phases for reopening based on the time since a facility's last outbreak. It also establishes strong, baseline infection control measures, requirements for PPE stockpiling, and requirements for resident and staff COVID-19 testing. The complete directive can be found here:

https://www.state.nj.us/health/legal/covid19/8-20_ExecutiveDirectiveNo20-026_LTCResumption_of_Svcs.pdf

The New Jersey School-Age Tuition Assistance Program has been launched, which will provide tuition assistance to parents/caretakers with school-age children (5 to 13 years old) in need of child care due to schools' remote learning schedules this fall as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

To be eligible for this assistance, you must be:

- a NJ resident;
- your child must be attending school remotely, either part-time or full-time; and
- your annual gross household income must be \$75,000 or less.

This assistance is available until December 30, 2020 and applications will be accepted until funds are exhausted. For more information, or to fill out the application, please use this link:

<https://www.childcarenj.gov/COVID-19-School-Age-Tuition-Assistance-Application>

On 10/15/2020, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 190, extending the utility shutoff moratorium through March 15, 2021. For more information, check out this link:

<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/assistance-and-benefits/what-if-i-cant-pay-my-water-gas-electricity-phone-or-internet-bill-due-to-the-outbreak-is-the-state-doing-anything-to-prevent-utility-shutoffs>.

For general questions pertaining to COVID-19, please call the New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 Hotline at 211 or text NJCOVID to 898-211. Please also feel free to visit

<https://covid19.nj.gov/> for more information. For mental health-related concerns during COVID-19, call the Disaster Distress Hotline at 1-800-985-5990 or text "talk with us" at 66746. If you wish to get in touch with the Clifton Health Department for general COVID-19 questions, please email Health Educator Layal Helwani at Lhelwani@cliftonnj.org.

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