



John E. Biegel, III
Health Officer
Director Human Services

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



Clifton Health Department
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Phone: 973-470-5760
Fax: 973-470-5760
e-mail: jbiegel@cliftonnj.org

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

Updated: March 24, 2020 3:30pm

(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 an **additional 5 cases since yesterday**, bringing the total case count to **41**. **It is with a heavy heart that we announce that Clifton had its first COVID-19-related death yesterday night, 3/23/2020. The individual was a 93-year old male who had underlying health conditions. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family, friends, and loved ones of this community member.** Please see attachment for additional information on cases.

While we recognize that many people are concerned about the health status of infected individuals, please understand that the Clifton Health Department's top priority is to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the community. Our staff is inundated with following-up on cases and their close contacts and are **unable to update the community with case-by-case status at this time. When possible, we will update the public with this information at a later time.**

Please be assured that the Health Department has been working diligently with the City administration to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We have been in constant communication with our Police Department, Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management, Department of Public Works, Clifton Board of Education, Boys and Girls Club, long-term care facilities, and other community partners, in collaboration with New Jersey Department of Health and Passaic County Department of Health Services.

We would like to remind you of basic preventative actions that should be followed during this pandemic. As per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, please be sure that you:

- Practice handwashing regularly for at least 20 seconds
- Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Stay home 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

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As a reminder, all residents, regardless of age, should take the COVID-19 pandemic very seriously and should actively practice the precautions above. To help stop the spread, everyone must do their part.

The City of Clifton urges residents to keep themselves busy. Consider going outdoors for fresh air and exercise, but be sure to keep a safe distance of at least 6 feet from other people. If you are walking your dog, please ensure the dog is leashed and licensed.

Please note that COVID-19 testing is only available for symptomatic individuals. Main symptoms include a fever of more than 100.4, coughing, and shortness of breath. Additionally, sore throat, nausea, and diarrhea *may* occur. **The Health Department does not test for COVID-19.** Testing can be done through medical providers; contact your healthcare provider to see if you are eligible for testing. Drive-through testing sites are also becoming available. One testing site is Bergen Community College, located at 400 Paramus Rd., Paramus, NJ, 07562. PNC Arts Center, located at 116 Garden State Parkway, Holmdel, NJ, 07733 is now open as a testing site as of 3/23/2020. Passaic County's COVID-19 screening drive-through site will be open starting tomorrow, March 25th from 9am-12pm at William Paterson University, 300 Pompton Rd., Wayne, NJ 07470. This site is open to Passaic County residents only. All residents must have a prescription in order to get screened.

The Health Department will not be distributing masks, sanitizers, and other supplies to the public.

Out of an abundance of caution, the following locations in the City of Clifton will be closed to the public until further notice:

- Clifton City Hall
- Clifton Public Schools
- Fire Headquarters
- Clifton DPW Garage
- Clifton Senior Center
- Clifton Arts Center
- Boys and Girls Club of Clifton
- Clifton Recreation Center
- City Parks and Playgrounds
- Clifton Public Libraries
- Clifton Hamilton House Museum



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The Clifton Animal Shelter will be closed to the general public, but appointments are available to come in. Please visit www.cliftonanimalshelter.com for more information or call 973-470-5936 with any questions.

Residents will be able to continue to conduct business with the City during the closure through use of the City's website. In addition, staff in each department will be available during regular business hours by telephone to assist residents and answer questions.

Clifton Municipal Court sessions have been suspended from Monday, March 16, 2020 continuing through Friday, March 27, 2020.

Seniors who are in need of a meal should call Margaret Nysk at 973-470-2249.

Attached you will also find a list of restaurants that are open within the City of Clifton. This list is ongoing and we will continue to add to it as we get more information.

Effective 3/21/2020, Governor Murphy has signed additional executive orders (Executive Orders 107 and 108) that include the following directives:

Nearly ALL New Jersey residents are directed to stay home.

ALL gatherings are cancelled.

ALL non-essential retail businesses must indefinitely close their physical stores to the public effective 9:00pm on 3/21/2020.

ONLY essential businesses may remain, which includes:

- Grocery stores
- Convenience stores
- Food banks
- Pharmacies
- Medical supply stores
- Gas stations
- Banks
- Pet supply stores
- Restaurants and bars providing take-out and delivery only
- Ancillary stores within healthcare facilities
- Hardware and home improvement stores
- Banks and other financial institutions



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- Laundromats and dry-cleaning services
- Stores that principally sell supplies for children under five years
- Pet stores
- Liquor stores
- Car dealerships, but only for auto maintenance and repair, and auto mechanics
- Printing and office supply shops
- Mail and delivery stores

Hospitals and health care facilities will remain open. Essential public health, safety, and social services will remain accessible.

Additionally, the order mandates that all businesses or non-profits, wherever practical, must accommodate their workforce for telework or work-from-home arrangements. To the extent a business or non-profit has employees that cannot perform their functions via telework or work-from-home arrangements, the business or non-profit should make best efforts to reduce staff on site to the minimal number necessary to ensure that essential operations can continue.

Examples of employees who need to be present at their work site in order to perform their job duties include, but are not limited to, law enforcement officers, fire fighters, other first responders, cashiers or store clerks, construction workers, utility workers, repair workers, warehouse workers, lab researchers, IT maintenance workers, janitorial and custodial staff, and certain administrative staff.

The Order continues existing bans on recreational and entertainment businesses, requirements that all restaurants operate by delivery and takeout only, and the directive that all pre-K, elementary, and secondary schools close and all institutions of higher education cease in-person instruction.

On 3/23/2020, Governor Murphy enacted an additional executive order mandating the following:

All elective surgeries and invasive procedures performed on adults that are scheduled to take place after 5:00pm on Friday, March 27, 2020 are to be suspended. In addition, all medical and dental operations that can be delayed without undue risk to the current or future health of the patient, as determined by the patient's physician or dentist, will be suspended.

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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