



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



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

John E. Biegel, III
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Director Human Services

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

Updated: April 22, 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.

With a heavy heart, we are announcing another **two COVID-19-related deaths** that were reported to us today, involving a 70-year old male and a 72-year old male. Our sincerest condolences go out to the loved ones of these community members. The City of Clifton now has a total of **61 deaths** to date.

Please note that the City of Clifton has had an **additional 52 cases since yesterday**, bringing the total case count to **1,643**. Please see attachment for more information on cases.

Tomorrow, 4/23/2020, Bergen Community College will be open for COVID-19 testing beginning at 8am and William Paterson University will be open for COVID-19 testing beginning at 9am. PNC Arts Center will be closed. The updated testing schedule can be found at this link: <http://covid19.nj.gov/testing>.

Tonight at 6pm, City officials will be holding an online COVID-19 forum to address updates on COVID-19 and the City of Clifton's response. The community will be able to tune in to Clifton Cable Channel Cablevision-77 or Verizon-40, and watch it online (the link will be provided).

All questions submitted to the email included in the previous press release will be addressed live.

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. Please note that this does not change today's total case count, and it is being done for our convenience in order to better track our cases.

Please note that there are additional pending cases in the system not reflected in these numbers. These numbers represent the cases in which we have initiated follow-up. Please see attachment for additional information on cases

We would like to take a moment to remind the community that all residents, regardless of age, need to take the COVID-19 pandemic very seriously and must practice the precautions



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mentioned below. **To help stop the spread, everyone must do their part.** Please **stay home** unless it is absolutely necessary to leave your home.

Please be aware that 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.

Due to a large 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.

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, 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

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- Avoid attending crowded events and social gatherings. Consider replacing in-person gatherings with video chatting, voice messaging and phone calls

As of 4/3/2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

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/downloads/DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf>.

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 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 drive-through testing site is now open daily 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. For more information on testing sites, please visit covid19.nj.gov.

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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

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.

Please be advised that effective 4/1/2020, the City Well is closed until further notice.

Additionally, the City of Clifton Rabies Clinics initially scheduled for Wednesday, 4/15, Wednesday, 4/22, and Saturday, 4/25 have all been cancelled.

Clifton Municipal Court sessions have been suspended until further notice.

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.

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:

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- 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
- 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
- Mobile phone retail and repair shops (added 3/24/2020)
- Bicycle shops, but only to provide service and repair (added 3/24/2020)
- Livestock feed stores (added 3/24/2020)
- Nurseries and garden centers (added 3/24/2020)
- Farming equipment stores (added 3/24/2020)

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



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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 3/30/2020, Governor Murphy issued the following amendments to Executive Order #107:

- Auto dealerships will be permitted to conduct online or remote sales. Dealers will be authorized to deliver vehicles directly to their customers, or to arrange for curbside or service lane pickup at a dealership.
- Realtors can operate and show houses to prospective buyers on a one-on-one basis or to immediate families. There is still a prohibition on open houses.
- Golf courses are closed as recreational businesses.

On 3/23/2020, Governor Murphy enacted an additional executive order (109) 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.

On 3/25/2020, Governor Murphy also signed an executive order (110) requiring **all childcare centers who are not solely serving children of essential workers to close by April 1st**.



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On 4/7/2020, Governor Murphy signed four additional executive orders:

1. The first will extend the public health emergency declared on March 9th for an additional 30 days.
2. Another will close all state and county parks, effective 4/7/2020
3. Another will extend certain deadlines for school districts whose April elections were postponed until May 12th. This is intended to provide enough time to certify their budgets and make staffing decisions.
4. The fourth will waive the 2019-20 school year assessment requirements for 8th and 12th grade students. This is intended to prevent students from being left behind or penalized as a result of COVID-19.

On 4/8/2020, Governor Murphy signed additional executive orders mandating the following:

- All essential retail establishments must indefinitely limit the number of customers allowed in their stores to NO MORE than 50% of their approved capacity
 - Additionally, customers & employees must wear face coverings. Stores must also provide special shopping hours for high-risk individuals, erect physical barriers between customers and cashiers and baggers where practicable, regularly sanitize areas used by their employees, & more
- All non-essential construction across New Jersey will CEASE, indefinitely, effective 8:00 PM Friday.
 - Exceptions include projects at hospitals and schools, projects in the transportation and public utility sector, the building of affordable housing, other individual housing sites that can adhere to strict limits on the number of workers on-site, and other limited instances.

On 4/11/2020, Governor Murphy signed an additional executive order directing New Jersey Transit and all private carriers to cut the capacity on all trains, buses, light rail vehicles, and paratransit vehicles to 50% of their maximum. NJ Transit and all private carriers will be required to provide their employees with gloves and face coverings. All riders will also be required to wear a face covering when traveling through NJ Transit or with a private carrier, unless they absolutely cannot for medical reasons.

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Additionally, Governor Murphy has expanded the requirement to wear a face covering to ALL customers heading into any one of the restaurants and bars that remain in operation as they get their takeout orders. Restaurants and bars must now give face coverings and gloves to all their food-service personnel. A face covering does not mean a medical-grade mask. There are any number of ways you can cover your mouth and nose with a bandana or a homemade fabric covering.

On 4/16/2020, Governor Murphy announced that public schools in New Jersey will remain closed through at least May 15, 2020.

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 Loyal Helwani at Lhelwani@cliftonnj.org.