



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: July 31, 2020 3:00pm

(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 **11 COVID-19 cases since Wednesday, 7/29/2020**, bringing the total COVID-19 case count to **2,752**.

With a heavy heart, we are reporting **4 additional COVID-19 deaths**, involving a 65-year old female, a 55-year old male, a 71-year old male, and a 58-year old male. Our sincerest condolences go out to the loved ones of these community members. **Please note that three of these deaths did not occur this week, but was reported to the Health Department today.**

The City of Clifton has a total of **152 deaths**. **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.

If you are traveling to New Jersey from any one of the highly impacted states and U.S. jurisdictions, including: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Washington D.C. and Wisconsin, you are urged to self-quarantine for 14 days (as of 7/28/2020). This means that you should NOT leave your home, hotel, or other lodging, except to seek medical care/treatment, or to obtain food and other essential items (while practicing the appropriate precautions). Please visit covid19.nj.gov/travel for updates on the list of states on the quarantine advisory, and to learn whether you should be self-quarantining.

The Department of Education's Restart and Recovery Plan provides educators and administrators with the information necessary to ensure that our schools reopen safely and are prepared to accommodate students' unique needs during this unprecedented time. For more information, please visit <https://nj.gov/education/reopening/>. As a reminder, parents will have the option to choose all-remote learning for their children.



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On 7/22/2020, Governor Murphy clarified the following regarding indoor recreation facilities:

- **Martial arts studios, which are classified as indoor recreational facilities, may conduct non-contact classes inside at a maximum of 25% capacity, so long as everyone is masked and social distancing. No contact drills or sparring can take place indoors.**
- **Yoga and pilates studios, which are not licensed health clubs, also fall under the definition of “indoor recreation”. They can only open to 25% of capacity, must observe social distancing, and all participants and instructors must be masked.**
- **Facilities that are licensed health clubs can only open their indoor areas for one-on-one, individualized training.**

We are in the midst of a heat wave that will continue to impact the state for the next few days. Remember to stay properly hydrated, stay cool in an air-conditioned area, wear lightweight, light-colored, and loose-fitting clothing, limit outdoor activities, and check in on family and neighbors who may be more vulnerable to the heat.

Later this week, the New Jersey Department of Education will be releasing guidance allowing for parents to choose all-remote learning for their children when schools reopen in the fall.

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**

As a reminder to residents, this pandemic is NOT over. We cannot become complacent, especially as the number of COVID-19 cases continues to increase in other states. It is crucial that residents continue to practice these important precautions:

- 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
- 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

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- **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**

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, signed by Governor Murphy on 6/3/2020. 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 as needed.

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. Additionally, 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.

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.

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

To reduce your risk of coming into contact with COVID-19, as per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 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
- 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 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/downloads/DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf>.

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

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- 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.**

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

- Clifton City Hall
- Clifton Municipal Court (sessions have been suspended until further notice)
- Clifton Public Schools
- Fire Headquarters
- Clifton DPW Garage
- Clifton Senior Center (Seniors who are in need of a meal should call Margaret Nysk at 973-470-2249)
- Clifton Arts Center
- Boys and Girls Club of Clifton
- Clifton Recreation Center
- Clifton Public Libraries
- Clifton Hamilton House Museum
- City Well
- Clifton Animal Shelter (appointments are available to come in. Please visit www.cliftonanimalshelter.com for more information or call 973-470-5936 with any questions)

In addition, for clarification, 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.

Residents are still 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 are available during regular business hours by telephone to assist residents and answer questions.

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

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

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>

Other indoor recreational facilities, including movie theatres, performing arts centers, concert venues, and nightclubs will remain closed.

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 161, signed on 7/2/2020, raising the limit on crowd size for outdoor gatherings to 500 people. Indoor gatherings remain limited to 25% of capacity, and cannot exceed 100 people.

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Executive Order 162, signed on 7/2/2020, extending the State's public health emergency for an additional 30 days.

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.

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 5/19/2020, Governor Murphy released an administrative order to allow for in-person sales to resume, effective 6:00am on 5/20/2020, at car and motorcycle dealerships, and bicycle shops.

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
- All retail stores must be limited to 50% capacity
- 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

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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 6/24/2020, Governor Murphy, in addition to NY Governor Andrew Cuomo and Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont, have announced a joint incoming travel advisory. All visitors to the tri-state region from states highly impacted by COVID-19 should self-quarantine for 14 days.

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>

On 6/29/2020, Governor Murphy announced that indoor dining will no longer resume on 7/2/2020. The return of indoor dining will be postponed until further notice.

Effective 7/2/2020, indoor pools may reopen at 25% capacity with social distancing measures in place. For more information, please visit: https://nj.gov/health/legal/covid19/7-1-2020_20-022ExecDirWAttachmentsPools.pdf

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.